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Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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A somber budget hearing

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña, right, answers questions of members of the House Ways and Means Committee while PSS finance officer Chris Ching, left, looks on in yesterday's budget hearing at the House chamber on Capital Hill.
JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It was a somber start to the budget hearings yesterday, with the Public School System first on the hot seat of the House Ways and Means Committee on Capital Hill.

PSS is asking for an operating budget of $67 million. However, based on the proposed budget submitted by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to the Legislature, the government has only allotted it $36.7 million.

If push comes to shove, though, PSS can operate on a $51-million budget, according to Muña.

Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) described the

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'PSS not ready for another typhoon'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Public School System hopes it wouldn't face another super typhoon in the next 10 to 15 years and is, in fact, not even ready for your run-of-the-mill typhoon, according to Education Commissioner Glenn Muña.

Acknowledging the long-shot nature of that wish, Muña noted that, as it stands, PSS has yet to recover fully from Super Typhoon Yutu, which devastated several PSS campuses in late October 2018.

"We are not ready for another typhoon season," he said. "…We not

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'Budget cuts fair, proportionate'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Torres administration insisted yesterday that the Office of Management and Budget makes sure that the cuts on the monthly allotments of all government agencies are proportionate and across the board.

That means what Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said about the

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DFEMS WEEK
Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios, front second left, and first lady Diann Torres joins personnel from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for a group photo yesterday after declaring the Emergency Medical Services Week at the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.
JON PEREZ

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Duty Free Saipan aims to become a place where people can shop and dine.
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U.S. sanctions on Venezuela appear to be taking hold, resulting in mile-long lines for fuel.
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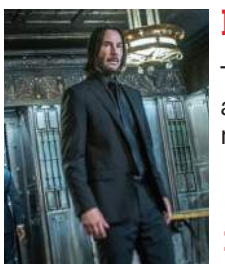

LIFE & STYLE
The box office has a new king and his name is John Wick.
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Local

ACHIEVE3000 helps boost literacy of NMI students

CNMI students remain college- and career-ready, thanks to almost seven years of partnership between ACHIEVE3000, the Public School System, and privates schools.

To celebrate that success, students and teachers were recognized for their reading gains and participation at the 2019 ACHIEVE3000 Literacy All-Star celebration held Wednesday last week at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

Lee Anne Housley, ACHIEVE3000's regional vice president International Implementations, said that ACHIEVE3000 is about providing access to literacy.

"We are all about helping students to learn how to read better. …We have been working with schools close to 20 years and we reached 3.5 million students worldwide last year," she said. "The schools and teachers that we work with make it happen. …We have had students come to us to thank us for the program as it helped them get into college and start a career."

ACHIEVE3000 was created to help students improve their reading and comprehension levels. This program is focused on helping students improve their "lexile"—the measurement of a student's reading and comprehension skills.

"So if a student is a first grader but has a reading skill equal to Kindergarten level, the program provides reading materials with content that aligns with their lexile so nobody gets left behind," said Rhea Backe, ACHIEVE3000 director for international sales.

"This program recognizes that everybody has different skills in reading and comprehension and helps them develop and improve that and ultimately for them to be college- and career-ready." she added.

One of the students given a certificate of achievement was Luis Taman of Garapan Elementary School. His mother, Kayla Litulumar, is overjoyed how his son found the passion for reading because of ACHIEVE3000.

Education Commissioner Glen Muña said that ACHIEVE3000's program is aligned with the PSS' objectives. "The success of the students is very important to us. Our partnership with ACHIEVE 3000 is one of the things that we would like to continue to foster," he said. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

The women of ACHIEVE3000. From left, regional VP for International Implementations Lee Anne Housley, director of sales-international Rhea Backe, Implementation manager for the CNMI Helene Manning, and Implementation manager for Guam Shiela Trianni. BEA CABRERA

ACHIEVE3000 Literacy ALL-STAR Celebration awardee Luis Taman of Garapan Elementary School poses with his mother, Kayla Litulumar, and younger brother.

BEA CABRERA

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NMC to host summer camp called 'Project PROA'

The Project PROA program at Northern Marianas College is inviting incoming high school juniors, seniors, and recent high school graduates to enroll in its Summer Bridge Camp, which begins on July 1, 2019, and will last until Aug. 9, 2019.

The six-week camp aims to prepare students who plan to attend NMC for college for success and provide them with the opportunity to strengthen their ties to their cultural heritage with various activities and field trips.

Participants of the Project PROA summer camp program will engage in academic sessions in the morning provided by the Community Development Institute and cultural activities in the afternoon with organizations such as 500 Sails, Carolinian Affairs Office, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, American Memorial Park, and NMC's Cooperative Research Extension & Education Services.

To qualify for the camp, participants must be an incoming high school junior, senior, or recent high school graduate and self-identify as Chamorro and/or Carolinian, per grant requirements. Interested individuals must be program eligible to participate.

In this file photo, participants of last year's Project PROA Summer Camp were taught how to sail a proa (indigenous canoe) with the help of 500 Sails. NMC

Participation is free with lunch and snacks provided as well.

The Project PROA program coordinators are working closely with Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute to facilitate the enrichment portion of the camp, which will allow participants to develop the essential skills needed to place in college-level English and math.

Forms are available online at www.marianas.edu/projectproa.php or visit the Project PROA staff at the library in Building O at the NMC Saipan As Terlaje campus between 8am and 5pm.

Interested students are encouraged to submit their application online by emailing projectproa@marianas.edu or at the Project PROA office in the NMC library and must be submitted no later than Friday, May 31, 2019, at 4:30pm. Orientation will be held on Friday, June 28, 2019, from 9am to 12pm in NMC's As Terlaje campus. For more information, contact Malyssa Castro, Project PROA Program coordinator, by phone at (670) 285-7651 or by email at malyssa.castro@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Pua is acting DFEMS chief

The Torres administration appointed last week an acting commissioner for the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services following its decision not to reappoint former commissioner Clyde Norita to the post.

Assistant fire chief Juan A. Pua was appointed acting commissioner last May 17.

According to DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde, Pua graduated from the second Fire Cycle in 1990 and became assistant fire chief in 2017.

Norita is expected to take on a new post. *Saipan Tribune* archives quote Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as saying that Norita will still be working with the administration in another capacity.

Norita is a former law enforcer who rose through the ranks to become a police major. He was also a former House member during the 14th CNMI Legislature, was appointed as Criminal Justice Planning Agency executive director, and DPS special assistant before being assigned to head the Commonwealth Ports Authority. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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Torres presides over PIDB meeting

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres left Saipan over the weekend to attend the shareholders meeting of the Pacific Islands Development Bank in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

Torres was elected chairman of the PIDB in a meeting last month in Palau.

Torres returns on Friday after almost a week of meetings with other Pacific leaders.

Right now, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is the acting governor.

Torres, whose trip is funded by PIDB, is fulfilling his duties as the PIDB chairman. Representatives of the islands of Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia—Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap—and host Marshall Islands are also attending.

"Gov. Torres, as the elected chair of [PIDB], presides over a shareholders meeting with the governments of Kosrae and the Marshall Islands on the capital," said press secretary Kevin Bautista.

"The PIDB is an important financial institution for the Pacific region, dedicated to the viability of island businesses and the promotion of regional partnerships on economic and social development."

PIDB is a regional development finance institution established in 1989 to help member countries speed up their development. Two members from each Pacific island nation, representing the executive and legislative branches of the government, compose the board of governors.

DISABILITY CONFERENCE ERWIN ENCINARES

Over 100 attend the first ever Northern Marianas College transition conference for students with disabilities last Friday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The conference was intended to inform incoming college students of the services the NMI college offers to people with disabilities.

HEARING

From Page 1

mood of the budget hearing as somber.

Blanco told *Saipan Tribune* that PSS officials, led by Education Commissioner Glenn Muña, briefed House members on its current financial situation. Associate commissioners Yvonne Pangelinan, Jackie Quitugua, and Eric Magofna and CNMI State Board of Education vice chair Herman Atalig were also present at the hearing.

"The gist of the hearing is what steps PSS has taken or is taking to stay within the shortfall. One of the hardships they are facing is there's no constant number allotment that would allow PSS to plan for a few days or a quarter," said Blanco.

"The commissioner had mentioned that they could spend $200,000 this month, then $500,000 the next. It is hard for them [PSS] to plan for their utilities, salaries, and other expenses. It's good that they shared this to the committee members, so we understand their position."

The Office of Management and Budget has implemented a 15-percent cut across all government agencies.

That has resulted in the PSS budget getting a $6.5 million reduction, plus an additional $968,000 cut seen by Legislative Bureau fiscal analyst David Demapan.

Some of the cost-cutting measures that the PSS management has already implemented are freezes in within-grade salary increases, zero hiring, cutting down on utility use (use of air conditioning units in classrooms and the central offices), suspension of all travels, and suspension of purchase orders.

"PSS had a proactive approach. Like freezing the FTEs, they were funded but they were never filled; they can't hire, so no hiring right now. They also said that they cut the percentage of the central office budget. They [PSS] know that belt-tightening measures must be done," said Blanco, who added that they would meet with PSS officials again once the CNMI Supreme Court issues its opinion on the certified question submitted by PSS.

PSS wants to settle the 25-percent budget share it should get each year, as mandated by the CNMI Constitution—whether that 25 percent is gross or net of the Commonwealth budget.

"We are going to sit down again with PSS and discuss whether further steps must be taken," said Blanco. "Either, more cost-containment steps or how we can mitigate some of their cuts or where we can get the money from. What I'm hearing from the [committee] members is that they want to give what PSS needs. According to the budget now, 25 percent is $36 million."

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), two of the minority members on the committee, said she agrees with how Blanco described Muña's statements at the hearing.

"Commissioner Muña gave us a very sobering picture of the state of PSS today, and the great lengths they are going to cut costs while continuing to provide quality services for our students," she said. "I can understand also why it's extremely challenging trying to plan for the rest of this fiscal year without a clear picture from Finance of how much they can expect in allotments in any given month. The administration must be more transparent about allotment decisions."

She added that PSS, like other government units, needs immediate information on the government's finances. "PSS [also] needs timely and accurate financial information to plan, make proper adjustments, and survive the rest of the year."

"Looking ahead to the next fiscal year, it's also very apparent that the governor's proposed budget for PSS falls far short of what they need—it won't even be enough to meet current payroll, let alone keep the lights on at our schools."

The budget hearings continue tomorrow with Rota at 9:30am and Tinian at 1:30pm. The Judiciary and the Department of Public Safety-Saipan are scheduled at 9:30am and 1:30pm on Thursday.

Torres submitted a gross budget of $233 million for fiscal year 2020; of that amount, he projects a net budget of $147 million.

PSS

From Page 1

only run an educational institution; we also run some of the island's primary short-term shelters," he said during yesterday's annual budget hearing session with the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Muña noted that at least 10 PSS buildings are also designated as shelters.

While PSS shelters are intended as short-term shelters only, Super Typhoon Yutu was so destructive that PSS had no choice, but to operate them for over a month, he said.

In terms of expenses, August 2015's Typhoon Soudelor was less expensive to recover from compared to Super Typhoon Yutu.

"Given our current financial situation and the current workflow that we have toward [Super Typhoon Yutu] recovery, we are not ready for another set of typhoons," he said.

As a result of Super Typhoon Yutu, the CNMI government has implemented a government-wide belt-tightening, forcing PSS to halt full-time employee hiring and within-grade increases.

Besides the austerity measures, PSS is also thinking of decreasing the work-hours of its employees. The Board of Education has yet to approve that plan.

Yutu decimated the Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao, rendering the whole campus unusable and forcing its nearly 1,000 student population to continue their classes in tents right next to the Koblerville Elementary School.

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School lost a whole building to the super typhoon, while Oleai Elementary School also sustained damage. Marianas High School, one of the several schools that were opened as a shelter, reported damage to some of their older buildings, including having the roof of their new gymnasium blown off.

Super Typhoon Yutu also forced the BOE to approve at their recent board meeting last week PSS' recommendation to extend its summer break by a month to save a month's worth of utility costs.

"My biggest worry are the temporary classrooms," said Muña.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the temporary classroom tents can withstand winds of up to 120 mph, roughly the equivalent of a Category 3 typhoon.

Super Typhoon Yutu was a Category 5 typhoon with the highest recorded windspeeds of up to 177 mph.

"What is going to happen if a [Category 4 typhoon or stronger] hits the CNMI? Where are we going to get funding for that?" Muña asked. "As much as possible, we do repairs with the little money we get.

He assured, though, that continuing to provide services to the community is PSS' priority."

BUDGET

From Page 1

Legislature as the only one being targeted for cuts is "unfair and simply untrue."

"In fact, the Executive Branch started implementing austerity measures before the Legislative and Judicial branches," said an administration statement.

It pointed out that the Legislature received 100 percent of its allotment in April, while several departments and agencies are still waiting for theirs—a fact that Propst "failed to acknowledge."

Right now, as a result of a decline in revenue collections in the first and second quarters, this has resulted in a proportionate reduction of 15.3 percent, the statement added. A 15.3-percent reduction was then applied across all government instrumentalities.

"To put it frankly, we are all facing the same cuts, but this administration is being proactive in responding to these conditions and providing revenue generating ideas with the Legislature's leadership to assist all departments and agencies [including autonomous ones] as our economy steadily recovers," the statement added.

The administration also said the $25.9 million deficit incurred at the close of the 2018 fiscal year was in part due to medical referrals.

"Twenty million dollars was attributed to the often-variable cost of off-island medical referral, while $1 million is attributed to overtime costs for law enforcement."

The remaining $5 million was from loss of revenues in the remaining months of the fiscal year because of changing tourism numbers at the start of the tourism season. Typhoon Mangkhut devastated the island of Rota in September.

The administration also clarified the issue on travel after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres restricted all non-federal travel outside the Commonwealth. The Finance Department keeps a record of all the travel expenses for all executive departments and agencies.

"Federal travel has been allowed, subject to the availability and advancement of funds from our federal partners. Gov. Torres and several key administration staff have only been on three official trips on behalf of the Commonwealth," said the statement, which added that Torres only went on three official trips. The first was to Washington, D.C. in February to attend the National Governors' Association meeting, testify at the U.S. Congress in separate committee hearings by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), meeting with officials of the Federal Emergency Management Administration, and leading the CNMI panel in the 902 consultations with the federal government.

Torres' second trip was to Guam for the ongoing dialogue with Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero's administration and the Guam Legislature.

He also traveled to Palau where he was elected chairman of the Pacific Islands Development Bank.

The statement added Propst, who is the minority leader in the CNMI House of Representatives, can label these trips as junkets, but it said these were necessary for the CNMI "and not only to represent the CNMI in the national and regional stages."

"Also, to ensure collaboration and assistance in our recovery, our economic policies, and our standing as a U.S. territory that has seen progress over the last few years, but was devastated by a typhoon that we had no control over."

‘Let ports police also undergo yearly fitness test’

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is working to have its ports police be placed under the same physical fitness test regulations as that of Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting personnel.

This is intended to ensure that CPA complies with Federal Aviation Administration regulations as well as the local certification regulations.

CPA board personnel affairs committee chair Joseph Diaz said in an interview last week that they did approve the physical fitness test regulations for ARFF personnel and now they are working for the ports police to have the same regulations.

“There is nothing at this point that we have [physical fitness exam regulations] for the ports police,” Diaz said, adding that the program will be similar to what they have with the ARFF.

He said those who are applying to join the ARFF and the ports police must undergo the physical fitness exam course.

Those already with CPA would need to comply with the physical fitness requirements every year.

“Every year they have to be recertified,” Diaz said.

Right now, CPA is sending its people off island for ARFF recertification. “It is very important. My top priority is to have them recertified in accordance with federal rules and regulations,” he said.

CPA does have the ARFF training facility on Saipan but it was destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu last October. Diaz said they are looking at millions of dollars to have that training facility restored and that may take a while.

He said ARFF staff are already certified, but they have to continue the training.

Diaz said the ports police will be required to meet the same physical fitness requirements as that of ARFF’s.

“We are in the process of doing that,” he said. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

High Court vacates DOC officer’s conviction

The Supreme Court vacated last week the conviction of a Department of Corrections officer who was accused of assaulting an inmate.

DOC officer Ray A. Camacho, who was recently found guilty of assault and battery, appealed the conviction and asked the Supreme Court to review the Superior Court’s order.

The Supreme Court found that the trial court misinterpreted the criminal intent requirement of the statute.

Camacho argued that the trial court incorrectly interpreted the law that warranted his conviction by applying the statute without considering mens rea (criminal intent).

The Commonwealth was initially tasked to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Camacho did unlawfully strike, beat, wounded, or caused bodily harm to the victim, Ryan Cavalear, but because he is a DOC officer, he has the authority to use force so the issue became whether the use of force was unlawful or without lawful authority or purpose, or contrary to law, regulation or order of the detaining authority.

The trial court examined an internal DOC training policy that was created to guide officers in using the appropriate levels of force and applied that policy to the statute to determine whether Camacho’s actions constituted assault and battery.

The application of the policy led to the court finding that Camacho violated the law and therefore convicted him of assault and battery.

The Supreme Court, however, after reviewing the order, said the trial incorrectly interpreted the statute and seemed to not have applied mens rea to the element of unlawfulness.

“Had the court properly applied the statute, it would have considered whether Camacho was aware that he did not have authority to put Cavalear in a chokehold. In doing so, it would have delved further, for example, into Cavalear’s disobedience and whether his actions would indicate to Camacho that his authority as a DOC officer allowed a greater level of force,” the court stated.

According to court information, Camacho put Cavalear in a chokehold after he failed to comply with an oral command that resulted in a verbal altercation.

Cavalear was allegedly yelling for medication for a recent oral surgery over the facility’s intercom.

When Camacho attempted to enter the cell to remove Cavalear’s cellmate, Cavalear failed to comply with at least one of the oral commands given and resulted in a verbal exchange.

Camacho then grabbed Cavalear by the neck and forced him down on the floor, restrained him, and slapped him. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

SCHEDULED POWER INTERRUPTIONS

There will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Sirena Avenue, Atdao Street, Ayuda Street, Tienda Avenue, Sailing Drive, Deskansa Street, Bonta Street and Mestisa Avenue
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines
- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Sirena Avenue, Atdao Street, Ayuda Street, Tienda Avenue, Sailing Drive, Deskansa Street, Bonta Street and Mestisa Avenue
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines
- **THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - ❏ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - ❏ Village location: Dandan
  - ❏ Power service area(s) affected: Dandan Road Fishing Place, Adios Place, Walking Place, Kattan Hudda Drive, Hook Lane and Parasial Place
  - ❏ Water service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Wastewater service area(s) affected: None
  - ❏ Work to be performed: Replace damaged power lines with new power lines

The purpose of the scheduled power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely conduct maintenance associated with the ongoing restoration effort.

CUC line crews will work to complete the CUC Federal Emergency Management Agency Water System Mitigation Project while line crews from PSE will continue hardening tasks along the power distribution system.

Water service may be interrupted during the scheduled outages.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor iys Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

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Court denies man's request to exclude evidence

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has denied the motion of a man to suppress the evidence that was obtained from him during a traffic stop.

Roman Agulto, who is accused of possessing methamphetamine and is facing two charges of illegal possession of a controlled substance, wants the court to suppress the evidence of drugs that were obtained from him at a traffic stop, saying it is unclear what basis the police had to suspect that criminal activity was afoot or a traffic violation may have been committed.

According to legal standard, the U.S. Constitution prohibits unreasonable searches and seizure and this extends to brief investigatory stops of persons or vehicles that fall short of traditional arrest. To make an investigatory stop, the officer must have reasonable suspicion that criminal activity is happening.

Agulto also disputed that it was unclear what specific statutes he was suspected to have violated prior to the police flagging him down.

The government said that the police did mention in their reports that the basis for the stop were parking on the highway and reversing on the highway.

After listening to the arguments and reviewing police testimony and reports, the Superior Court determined that there were several traffic violations committed that could have served as the basis for the investigatory stop.

Citing police testimony, the court said the stop was supported by reasonable suspicion of a traffic infraction.

The police officers' investigatory stop could also be supported by reasonable suspicion of a possible violation of parking and therefore the officers' stop of Agulto was justified, the court added.

The court also stated that Agulto's conduct in driving, speeding away after the police officers activated their emergency lights, and not stopping for it, constituted reasonable suspicion that criminal activity was afoot, and this could serve as the basis for the investigatory stop.

According to court information, two police officers were on routine patrol in Susupe on Nov. 24, 2018, when they came across Agulto's vehicle and drove behind it. Agulto later turned left on Pachinko Ave. from Tupak Street.

When the officers turned onto Pachinko Ave., they found that Agulto's vehicle had stopped in the middle of the southbound lane. Police then stopped behind Agulto's vehicle.

Agulto then reversed approximately 20 feet on the highway toward the officers' vehicle, nearly hitting it then drove a few feet forward before making a right turn into a house on Pachinko Ave.

The police vehicle made a U-turn and followed Agulto.

Police said Agulto rolled down his window and raised both his hands in a shrugging fashion as he sped away.

When Agulto revved his engine, the police officers activated their police emergency light and went after him.

The officers eventually found Agulto's vehicle parked along Bakke St. with Agulto hiding in the bushes.

After placing Agulto in handcuffs, police searched the area and found one headlamp, a case that contained a small clear Ziploc bag containing a crystalline substance, and one glass tube pipe with crystalline substance residue in it that Agulto denied was his.

Police also searched Agulto's vehicle and found other drug paraphernalia, multiple clear Ziploc bags containing crystalline-like substances, and one branch of a "leafy" substance.

CIB to take a fresh look at cold cases

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Criminal Instigative Bureau has reactivated its Special Homicide Activity Resolution Partnership, or SHARP, program to focus on cases that have grown cold over the years.

With funding assistance from the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, SHARP aims to reopen cold cases relating to homicide or missing persons.

According to Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, the program was reactivated this year because funding was secured.

"Funding was always an issue so we've identified funding for that. I think we've also identified personnel that we can pull away to work in that particular section. That's just a section within CIB. It's not…a completely different section that was created, but it's been part of CIB that was deactivated because of lack of funding and I think it's the right time that we activate it. Although we're still on austerity measure, we've identified some federal money to assist in that."

When asked whether some cases would be prioritized over others, Guerrero said no. "It's for cold cases in general." He assured that not one case is prioritized over the other.

According to a DPS statement, the SHARP program originally consisted of five detectives from the CIB division and was active from 2006 to 2010. The program was then extended up until 2014 before it was sidelined because of funding issues.

SHARP, with assistance from the Federal Investigative Bureau and multiple other agencies, was able to solve a homicide case that took place in 2012.

The program is currently looking into cold cases dating back to 1977. Some of the cases include the 1995 homicide case of a female found near the Marpi shoreline, the 1997 robbery homicide of Marsha Kim, the 2016 homicide case of Li Qiang Ding, and the 2014 disappearance of the Yamada sisters.

For those who want to help and report any information or details regarding any cold case, they can reach out to Lt. Simon Manacop at 664-9042. They can also call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 to remain anonymous.

Public hearing on the mandatory fishery data reporting regulations

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife is inviting all fishermen, boat owners, restaurant operators, tour operators, and all agencies engaged in commercial fishing on Saipan and the Northern Islands that there will be a public hearing on the proposed mandatory data reporting regulations under Pubic Law 17-98.

The hearing will be held on May 29, 2019, from 5pm to 6pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Contact DLNR or DFW for inquiries or to get a copy of the draft regulations at 322-9834 or 664-6000. ***(PR)***

Emergency power outage in San Antonio

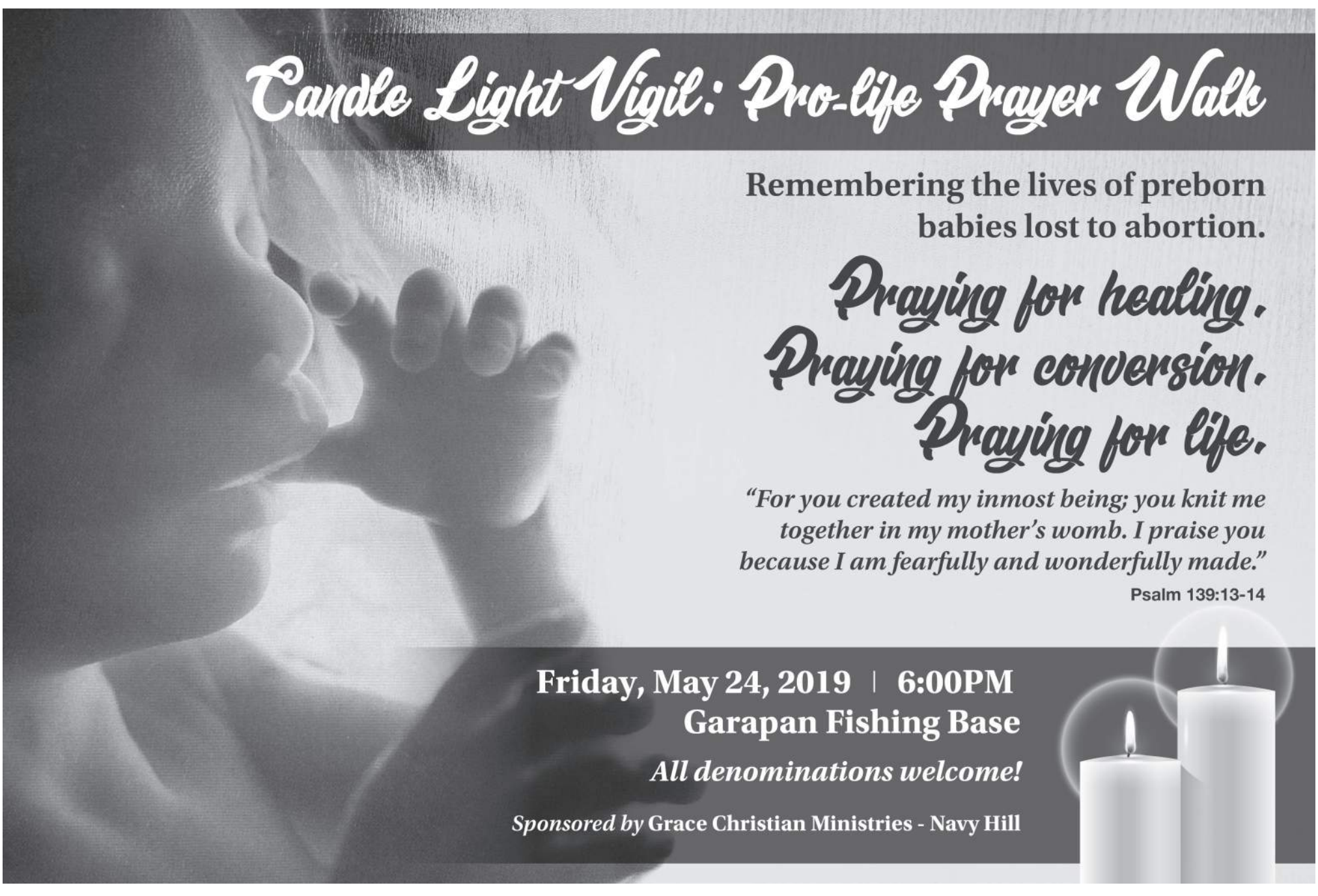
There is going to be an emergency power interruption in San Antonio today, May 21, from 7am to 6:30pm.

The sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit will affect the DPA Car Mart, Afetna Shopping Center, and Afetna Road to Pios Drive.

No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

This will allow workers from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely do maintenance work associated with the ongoing restoration effort.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***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CNMI's middle school national team ready for NSDA

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI middle school National Speech and Debate Association competition team members pose for a photo before they performed their pieces in front of a crowd last Saturday afternoon at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. ERWIN ENCINARES

The 15-person CNMI team that will compete in the National Speech and Debate Association's tournament in Dallas, Texas, is ready.

Both Public School System schools and private schools students from Dandan Middle School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, and the Saipan International School would be joining the 2019 NSDA tournament in Texas in late June.

With national tournament trip coordinator and DMS head coach Johanne Kristine Wolf leading the 15-member team, the NMI middle school national team for the NSDA performed their pieces over the weekend at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"We have five veteran students on board and they have shared their experiences with the 10 new national competitors, hence I am trusting that, as in previous years, our students will excel," Wolf told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Wolf, she recalled how October 2018's Super Typhoon Yutu made it difficult for the students to compete.

"…Some of them had to drop from the pre-regional competitions—not because they were less passionate but merely due to the circumstance," she noted. "It [was] a challenge to continue…when our [script] pieces were part of the rubble."

Wolf said she owed it all to the coaches—Criselda Aldan, Grace Duran, Maria Mettao, Victoria Nishida, Tina Goodwin, Anne McCaslin, Tatiana Ilmove, and herself—that helped assemble the middle school-level NMI national team.

She noted that the team had been practicing since early March 2019.

Aleeza Castro, a first-time NMI representative from DMS, said that she is nervous but is looking forward to the competition.

"I want to be good but I want to be better for my family and coach to prove to them that no matter who you are or what age you are, you can do anything," Castro said. "I am going to try my best and have fun, but also win."

Castro would be participating in the storytelling category.

The national team consists of DMS' Oceana Teigita competing in poetry reading; SCS' Jesse Sablan competing in humorous interpretation; FMS' Aleeza Castro competing in storytelling; DMS' Danielle Formalejo competing in original oratory; GCA's Tae Hee competing in prose reading; FMS' Klin Delegion Guerrero competing in declamation; MCS' Jill Anne Mallari competing in declamation; SIS' Anastasiia Shamanaeva competing in Lincoln-Douglas debate; HMS' Edgardo Palma Jr. competing in dramatic interpretation; DMS' Issa Teigita competing in prose reading; SIS' Mylan Goodwin competing in impromptu speech; FMS' Eman Barce competing in poetry reading; GCA's Anthony Camacho competing in extemporaneous speaking; and DMS' Lars Anthony Wolf and Bernice Sabino competing in duo interpretation.

NEWS BRIEFS

DPS responds to 58 calls

The CNMI Department of Public Safety responded to 58 calls on Saipan and made four arrests this past weekend.

From 11pm on Friday, May 17, through 11pm on Sunday, May 19—a 48-hour period—DPS responded to and were dispatched to 58 different 911 calls, which included assault and battery, auto related incident, burglary, cultivation, domestic dispute, disturbing the peace, driving under the influence, fire, injured person, reckless driving, and theft.

The three most reported to villages over the weekend include the villages of Chalan Kanoa, Dandan, and Garapan.

DPS encourages the public not to hesitate when calling 911. Dispatchers and officers are standing by to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public. ***(DPS)***

Emergency power outage today

There will be an emergency power interruption today, May 21, on the Kiya 3 line, from 9am to 3pm. This will affect Chalan Kiya (Plata Drive (partial), Chalan Kiya Drive, Tinta Lp., Penta Ln., Rasu Ln., Kachang Ln., Tumu Ln. and Mikulot Dr.). No water well service areas or wastewater service areas will be affected.

The purpose of this emergency power interruption is to de-energize utility lines and allow linemen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to replace a rotted primary power pole and straighten leaning power poles in Chalan Kiya.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.comlCommonwealthUtilitiesCorporationl). ***(PR)***

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Suspension of Hillbroom's deadline to disclose expert witnesses OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted the request of Junior Larry Hillbroom to suspend the deadline for him to disclose his expert witnesses in his lawsuit against his former lawyers, David J. Lujan and Barry J. Israel.

In her order last Thursday, Manglona said there is good cause to suspend the deadline until after the depositions of Lujan and Israel are completed.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

Manglona said she will reset the deadline once Lujan completes his deposition.

Hillbroom's expert disclosure notice was due yesterday.

In his motion to suspend deadline, Hillbroom, through his lawyer, Rachel A. Dimitruk, said the deadline was set to accommodate the end of Lujan and Israel's depositions in Guam that was set from May 7 to 15, 2019.

Dimitruk said that Lujan walked out of his deposition last Tuesday, May 14.

Dimitruk said that extending the deadline on Hillbroom's motion would allow the conclusion of Lujan's deposition and require Lujan to refrain from "inappropriate, unprofessional and bad faith conduct" in the continuation of his deposition.

She said there is also a motion pending for sanctions against Lujan for the time and expense his conduct has caused Hillbroom to incur.

A hearing is scheduled on that motion for Friday, May 24.

Dimitruk said that Lujan and Israel's depositions are crucial to the consideration of matters by Hillbroom's experts in legal ethics and forensic accounting.

The lawyer said without the information from the depositions of both Lujan and Israel, Hillbroom's expert reports will be incomplete.

In his motion to compel, Hillbroom, through counsel, asked the court to order Lujan to resume his deposition on Saipan as Lujan allegedly displayed obstructive conduct and improperly left during the first deposition.

Hillbroom sued Lujan and Israel for allegedly conspiring with former trustee Keith Waibel to inflate their contingency fee when the fortune of the late DHL co-founder Larry Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in the Superior Court.

Lujan and Israel denied the allegations.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillblom. His name is spelled differently from that of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on May 21, 1995. His body was never recovered.

Leaders of the International brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1357 and IT&E executives celebrate the ratification of a collective bargaining agreement at IT&E's headquarters in Susupe. From left, Troy Benevides, business manager/financial secretary of IBEW Local 1537; Rose Soledad, general manager of IT&E; Andie Kahakui, assistant business manager of IBEW Local 1537; Velma Ann Palacios, director-network operations and engineering at IT&E; Shirley Dotts, human resources director of IT&E; and Rob Harrell, executive director of customer operations. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E inks collective agreement with electrical workers union

IT&E announced yesterday that a collective bargaining agreement has been struck between IT&E and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1357.

Members of the union voted to accept the terms of the bargaining agreement on May 15. The new agreement is effective from May 16, 2019 to Sept. 20, 2023 and provides job stability and labor peace, as well as steady wage increases, for union members during the five-year term.

"We at IT&E are glad that the collective bargaining agreement negotiations have come to a successful close that benefits all parties," said Rose Soledad, IT&E's general manager. "The agreement shows our commitment to providing a productive and fair work environment for our associates as we work as one to fulfill our vision and mission of delivering connections that matter to our community." ***(IT&E)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FMS Middle School to release student reports

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School will be distributing its fourth quarter mid-progress reports on Tuesday, May 21, from 4pm to 5:50pm. After the release of the mid-progress reports, the school will conduct a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting in the cafeteria at 6pm. ***(PR)***

MIFICPA seminar on May 25

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will be conducting its "Leadership Values & Management Accounting Seminar" on May 25 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 8am to 12pm. It will be conducted by Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago. Registration fee for members is $15, inclusive of snacks and certificate of attendance. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee. Registration starts at 7:30am.

To facilitate the question-and-answer portion of the seminar, you can pre-register and turn in your question(s) ahead of time through the organizers.

For reservation and more details, email Angie Mamaril (angiehmamaril@yahoo.com), Noemi Catigan (noemi_catigan@fiestasaipan.com), Deo Manese (djmanese @gmail.com), Paul Saniel (paulangelosaniel@hotmail.com), Ronnel Calma (rcalmal@jzgroupinc.com), Jimaela Ham (jvham888@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

SSHS registration for ongoing students

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration forms for ongoing students SY 2019-2020. Deadline for submission will be on Aug. 21, 2019. All ongoing students must re-register to be enrolled at SSHS. If you have any other questions email Victoria Apatang at victoria.apatang@cnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TWO SLUDGE DEWATERING EQUIPMENT'S

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the purchase of two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's; one for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-020, Supply and Delivery of Two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than May 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

DFS wants to become a 'shop & dine' destination

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Duty Free Saipan Ltd. in Garapan aims to become a place where tourists and residents can shop and dine alike.

Toward that end, the T Galleria mall of DFS has been undergoing renovations the past few to create space that will offer both shopping and dining experiences for its customers.

Rabold

Newly promoted DFS vice president for store operations Milan Rabold said that renovations within the DFS building to accommodate more stores are going swimmingly.

"We are coming to the end of our renovation inside as we have done most of the interior dedicated to fashion, watches, and jewelry. … The total building is about 100,000 square feet and about 70 percent of that is dedicated to shops, [which covers] hundreds of brands."

The exterior renovation is now underway, he said, which explains the abundance scaffolding surrounding the building's façade.

"We are building a very beautiful and modern façade that even I can't wait to see myself because it's going to be fantastic," he said.

DFS is looking at four more months and renovations should be done by August.

All these are being done to bring the T Galleria to the next level when DFS introduces the "shop and dine" lifestyle.

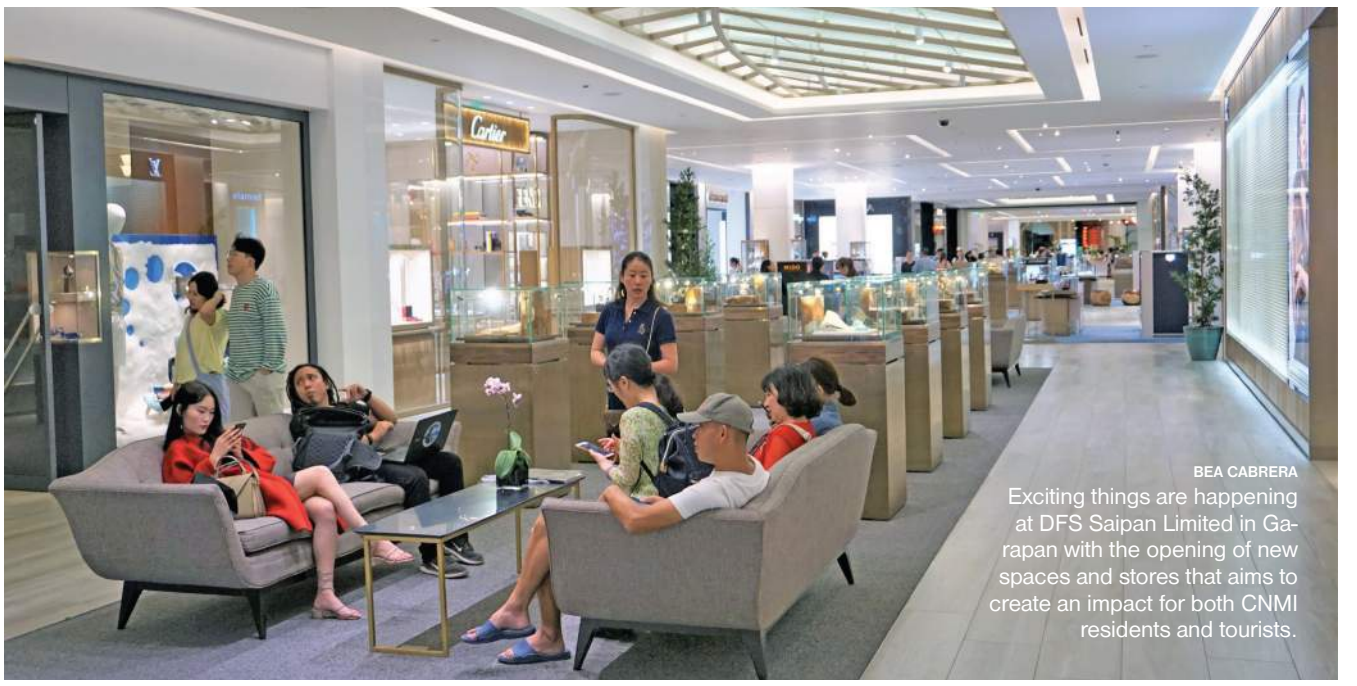
According to Rabold, the next step is to open restaurants at the south side of the building where the casino used to be. "Right now, we are using the area as temporary areas for some of our brands and we plan to maximize that whole area where we will have restaurants in the future," he said.

He said DFS is working on a great restaurant line-up and food and beverage concept to create an overall satisfying customer experience and exciting environment both for locals and tourists.

DFS already has a good mix of brands, with some having their own shops and some of them in kiosks. In February this year, Cartier, the French company known the world over for its luxury products, brought its brand to the CNMI with a new boutique inside DFS Saipan.

"Cartier, Louis Vuitton, and Gucci are some of the brands that have their own store. … Aside from Cartier, we also opened Omega, Fendi, and Prada." Rabold said.

A section in the beauty area of T Galleria is now called the "Excitement Zone," which DFS management described it as the "happening" area. Last Friday, fashion forward British brand "Boy London" launched its spring/summer collection at the Excitement Zone.



BEA CABRERA
Exciting things are happening at DFS Saipan Limited in Garapan with the opening of new spaces and stores that aims to create an impact for both CNMI residents and tourists.

USCIS completes data entry of FY 2020 H-1B cap subject petitions

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has completed data entry for all fiscal year 2020 H-1B cap-subject petitions selected in our computer-generated random selection process, including those selected under the U.S. advanced degree exemption.

As in previous years, USCIS will now begin returning all H-1B cap-subject petitions that were not selected and will issue an announcement once it is done notifying petitioners.

Due to the volume of filings, USCIS cannot provide a definite time frame for returning unselected petitions. Petitioners are urged to wait to inquire about the status of their cap-subject petitions until they receive a receipt notice or an unselected petition that had been returned.

Additionally, USCIS may transfer some Form I-129 H-1B cap-subject petitions between the Vermont Service Center and the California Service Center to balance the workload and enhance efficiencies. If your case had been transferred, you will receive notification in the mail. After receiving the notification, send all future correspondence to the center processing your petition. ***(USCIS)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 10th birthday to Jayden Darren Camacho Nekaifes! You came into my life 10 years ago and turned it into the happiest one in the world. I am tremendously lucky to have a wonderful son like you, who makes my life brim with true happiness. May you continue to grow into the young man you are destined to be. We will always be right behind you. We love you so much and may the Lord continue to bless you. Greetings come from Mom and your siblings. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Find Out if You Are Eligible WIC CNMI

WIC is available to CNMI's pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children under the age of five who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines below. A pregnant woman is considered two family members.

WIC Income Eligibility Table By Family Size Effective May 8, 2019

Family Members in Household	Yearly Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Twice-Monthly Household Income	Bi-Weekly Household Income	Weekly Household Income
1	$23,107	$1,926	$963	$889	$445
2	31,284	2,607	1,304	1,204	602
3	39,461	3,289	1,645	1,518	759
4	47,638	3,970	1,985	1,833	917
5	55,815	4,652	2,326	2,147	1,074
6	63,992	5,333	2,667	2,462	1,231
7	72,169	6,015	3,008	2,776	1,388
8	80,346	6,696	3,348	3,091	1,546
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Note: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS Income, meaning before taxes or other deductions

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Tariffs are a losing strategy for tech industry

The 21st century will be led by the nation that best prepares for the future of technology.

President Donald Trump's high-stakes Game of Tariffs with China does little to further that goal. Yes, it could help the United States protect its companies' intellectual property rights and pressure China to stop its unfair trade practices. But it takes the focus away from what his administration, Congress and the technology industry should be doing:

■ Investing in infrastructure needed for a tech-based economy that will be dominated by artificial intelligence, robotics and breakthroughs in energy, medicine and transportation.

■ Ensuring the United States is the world leader in research and development.

■ Producing well-educated youth capable of leading the next wave of innovation and providing the workforce needed to support the new businesses that emerge.

■ Winning the talent war, which requires comprehensive immigration reform that would ensure that the best and brightest minds from around the world bring their ideas and energy to the United States.

China on Monday retaliated)against Trump's $200 billion worth of new tariffs on Chinese goods by slapping levies on $60 billion of products imported from the United States. The escalation of the trade war caught investors by surprise, sparking major lo sses for some of tech's biggest companies, including Apple, Intel, Microsoft, Tesla, HP and Nvidia. Tech stocks on Tuesday recovered some of their losses, demonstrating that uncertainty is never good for business.

The world cannot afford a trade war that could spark a serious recession. The U.S. economy may be strong, and China has rebounded from its 2018 setback. But Europe and South America are struggling to hold their economies together.

The last time a U.S. president tried to go it alone with protectionist policies, it led to the Great Depression. As much as Trump insists that the United States can win a trade war, history says it's a losing strategy. Even his top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said Sunday that both the United States and China would suffer as a result of the tariffs.

That said, the United States cannot ignore China's ambitious effort to become the world's technological leader by 2049. Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Santa Clara, predicted Monday that China would continue subsidizing its tech firms during a trade war while U.S. companies could face a massive decline in revenue. The only alternative would be significant increases in prices for tech products. Consumers could see the price of an Apple(iPhone jump by as much as $150.

Trump is right when he says China is failing to play by the rules of international trade. He should continue to negotiate for a more level playing field for American firms.

But he must not employ a strategy of short-term victories at the expense of the technology industry's future needs.

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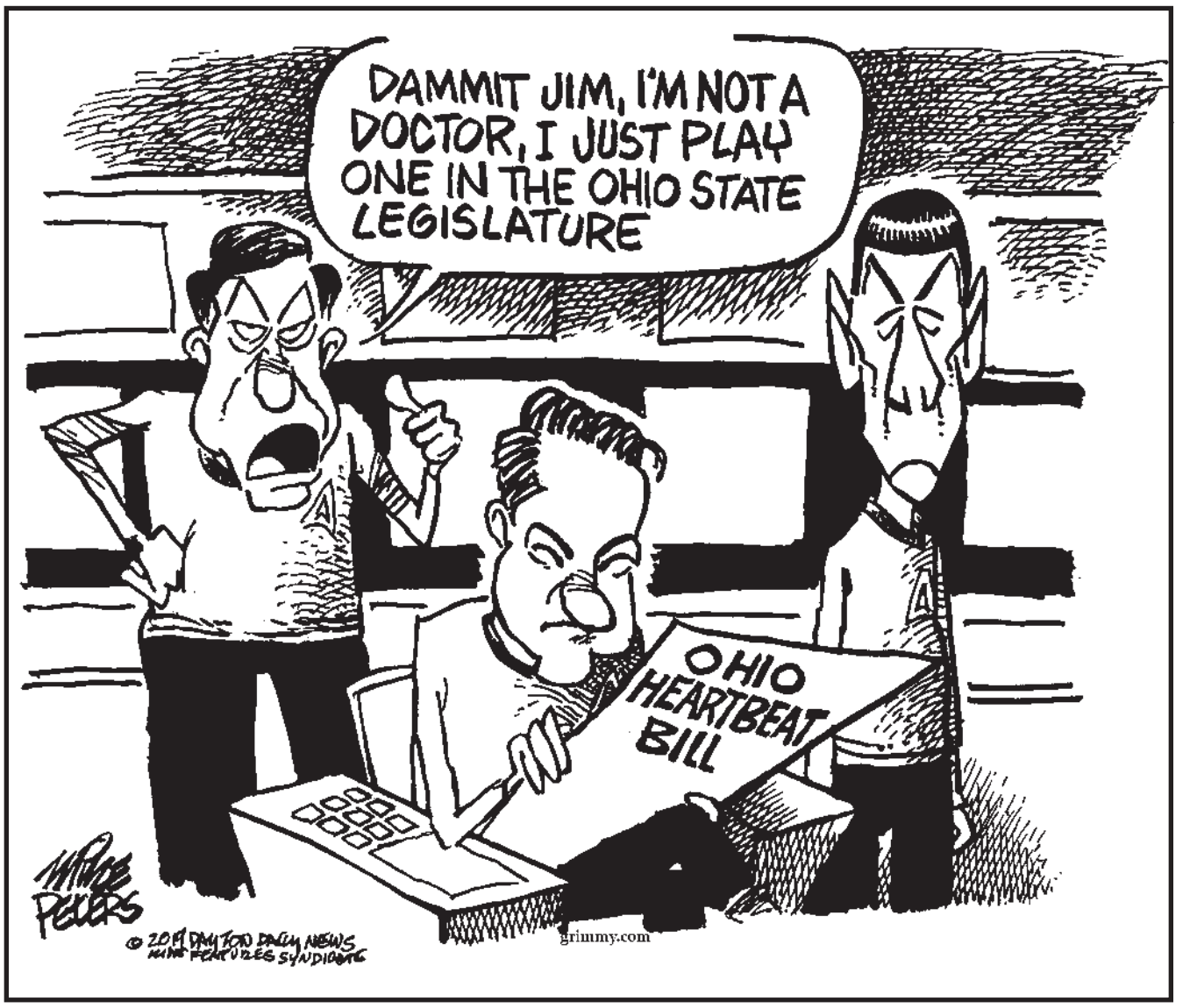
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TO ADDRESS ITS ALARMING RAPE PROBLEM

US military needs a 'sexual assault unit'

By CORY FRANKLIN and JIM NICHOLSON
Chicago Tribune

The recent announcement by Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., that she was sexually assaulted while serving in the U.S. Air Force highlights once again the importance of preventing sexual assault in the military, the dark secret of American armed forces. McSally is advocating for legislation to criminalize sexual harassment in the ranks and ensure that each military base retains a lawyer to advocate for victims. Her proposed legislation is definitely a step in the right direction, but even it does not go far enough. The key to such an effort is transfer of the investigation and prosecution from the local military to Department of Defense civilians.

The reluctance to acknowledge the problem of sexual assault is part of a pattern. Until 10 years ago, sexual assault in the military was rarely discussed and went largely unreported. Even so, the numbers are shocking. In 2018, the Pentagon estimated more than 20,500 service members were raped or sexually assaulted, an increase of 38% over the 14,900 estimated in 2016. Only a fraction of these crimes were officially reported. Considering the number of crimes committed, quite possibly a low estimate, only a small number of perpetrators are prosecuted and an even smaller number of those prosecutions result in conviction.

The effort by the military to prevent sexual assault is clearly not working. Brigadier Gen. Loree Sutton, a retired Army psychiatrist, has characterized the military, a closed system, as "a target-rich environment" for sexual predators. The Pentagon estimates that 6% of all women and 1% of all men in the military have been victims of sexual assault.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan called the overall trend a "scourge" and demanded military leaders better police "climate challenges" within their units. However, this is an insufficient response, because the complaint still remains within the military chain of command. The military investigators in these cases usually have inherent conflicts of interest. A career at stake can, and often does, trump the rights of an alleged victim. Essentially in the case of military rape, military officers are still being counted on to clean up their own house.

What the recent scandals in the Catholic Church, Hollywood and other institutions have taught us (or should have taught us) is that once wrongdoing occurs, the larger the institution, the less chance impartial outside investigators will be called to investigate.

And the Department of Defense is enormous. That's why rape, a felony criminal complaint, must be diligently and thoroughly investigated by people outside the chain of command. This is an ongoing situation that calls for direct action as opposed to anodyne reports and recommendations emanating from the distant reaches of the Pentagon.

The secretary of defense, with the support of President Donald Trump, should create a "Sexual Assault Unit" located at the Pentagon, composed of Department of Defense civilians, not military. This unit should be made up of disciplined criminal investigators and prosecutors with extensive experience in this field.

Here's how a hypothetical model would play out with such a system in place: If a 19-year-old private were assaulted behind the mess hall at night at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, that private could call the toll-free telephone number of the Pentagon's Sexual Assault Unit without fear of retribution from a superior officer. A qualified nurse assigned to the base would preserve evidence with a rape investigation kit. Within four hours, two investigators and a prosecutor would fly out of Washington, headed for San Antonio.

On arrival, the Pentagon investigative team would immediately gather forensics and take the alleged victim's statement, then contact the base commander. As part of revised Defense Department policy, the base commander would provide the team with a secure working area and be required to cooperate in the investigation under penalty of obstruction of justice. The Pentagon team would have complete authority over anything related to the alleged crime. If charges were filed, the trial would still take place in a military court. Punishment for convicted offenders should include expulsion from the military and having one's name entered into a Defense Department registry of sex offenders, available to the public.

The Defense Department has begun to acknowledge the gravity of military rape, its devastating psychological and physical impact on victims, and its corrosive effect on the military in general. Yet it has so far resisted entreaties to bring in qualified outsiders to investigate and prosecute, the most

See US MILITARY on next page

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A primer on trusts

By JORDAN SUNDELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business and real-estate law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate and small business—are published every other Tuesday.

Many people have heard of trusts. But not that many people actually know what trusts are and what benefits they can provide. Let's try to change that.

What is a trust? In simple terms, a trust is a way to transfer your money, real estate, and other assets to one or more other people. It involves three types of people: the person transferring assets (the grantor), the person managing those assets (the trustee), and the person receiving the assets (the beneficiary).

What are the benefits of a trust? At least three.

First, trusts give you control over where your assets go and when your beneficiary can access them. You can retain access to the property through your lifetime, or not. You can instruct the trust to issue payments once your children reach a certain age or graduate from college. You can withhold trust funds if they do not graduate from college, or fail to do something else that you want them to do. The sky's the limit on what kind of instruction you provide and which scenarios you address.

Second, trusts can protect your heirs from their spouses and creditors. Say, for example, that you transferred money directly to your child and later they got divorced. The ex-spouse would probably get a chunk of it. But if you had put the money in a trust, the ex-spouse would have no rights to any future payments issued by the trust.

Or think about if your child found themselves behind on a business loan. The money you gave them would be fair game when the bank tries to collect on the debt. But if instead, you put the money in a trust and gave the trustee discretion about when to give the money to your child, the bank could not go after the trust money until the trust actually gave the money to the child. That delay gives the child plenty of leverage to negotiate with the bank because it wants to get paid now rather years later.

Third, trusts offer a fast, private way to transfer your assets when you die. It's fast because property in a trust does not need to go through the probate process. And it's private for the same reason—probate is a matter of public record; trust documents are not.

Thus far we've discussed trusts as if they are all the same. But trusts come in several shapes and sizes much like businesses can decide between, say, being a partnership, corporation, or limited liability company. The varieties fall into two main categories: revocable and irrevocable.

Revocable trusts (often called "living trusts") are flexible vehicles. A grantor can amend or end the trust at any time. They can appoint themselves as trustee and beneficiary during their lifetime. They can appoint someone else to manage some or all of the trust's assets. And so on. In short, they can set up the trust, so that they can act as if they still own the assets in their personal name.

The downside is that because a grantor can freely alter a revocable trust, it offers minimal asset protection—that is, the trust will not shield your assets from the claims of your creditors. At most, the trust will delay how long it takes the creditors to access the trust funds because it requires your creditor to get a court order commanding the trust to distribute assets to your creditor.

Why do people bother with setting up a revocable trust then? To have someone else manage some or all of their property. To protect their assets if they become incompetent or incapacitated. To reduce the chance that an heir will fight over how the estate is distribute. To reduce the disruption to their business if they die or are disabled. And, of course, for the other benefits we previously touched on (privacy, avoiding probate, control beyond the grave, and asset protection for their heirs).

Irrevocable trusts, by contrast, are much different animals. The grantor cannot undo it once it starts. And, generally, the grantor is not the trustee. In other words, the grantor gives up ownership and control of their assets.

Sounds crazy, right. Why would someone voluntarily relinquish ownership and control of their assets? The answer: To reduce their taxes and liability.

Let's begin with taxes. Transferring assets to an irrevocable trust effectively removes those assets from your estate when you die. That can be useful for wealthy people because the government taxes high-value estates when they die. But that's not a problem most of us need to worry about because, as of this writing, the government does not tax the first $11 million from your estate.

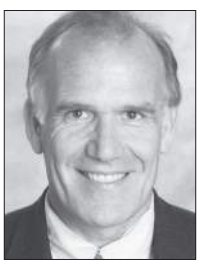
The same rationale applies to liability reduction. Because you no longer own or control the assets, you can't be ordered to hand them over to a creditor. Thus, moving assets from yourself and into an irrevocable trust can put them beyond the reach of your creditors.

Whether you goal is to protect assets from creditors, guide your family after you pass, or save them the trouble of going through probate, forming a trust can be a useful tool to reach your goal. But deciding what kind of trust to create and how it will act once formed can get complicated quickly. So, don't do it alone. And don't do it with an online kit from an online provider who knows nothing about your situation or CNMI law. Get help from a local professional.

This column is not intended as legal advice and is for informational purposes only. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

Our modern 'Satyricon'

By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON
Tribune News Service



Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University and the author, most recently, of The Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern. *You can reach him by emailing author@victorhanson.com.*

Sometime around A.D. 60, in the age of Emperor Nero, a Roman court insider named Gaius Petronius wrote a satirical Latin novel, "The Satyricon," about moral corruption in Imperial Rome. The novel's general landscape was Rome's transition from an agrarian republic to a globalized multicultural superpower.

The novel survives only in a series of extended fragments. But there are enough chapters for critics to agree that the high-living Petronius, nicknamed the "Judge of Elegance," was a brilliant cynic. He often mocked the cultural consequences of the sudden and disruptive influx of money and strangers from elsewhere in the Mediterranean region into a once-traditional Roman society.

The novel plots the wandering odyssey of three lazy, overeducated and mostly underemployed single young Greeks: Encolpius, Ascyltos and Giton. They aimlessly mosey around southern Italy. They panhandle and mooch off the nouveau riche. They mock traditional Roman customs. The three and their friends live it up amid the culinary, cultural and sexual excesses in the age of Nero.

Certain themes in "The Satyricon" are timeless and still resonate today.

The abrupt transition from a society of rural homesteaders into metropolitan coastal hubs had created two Romes. One world was a sophisticated and cosmopolitan network of traders, schemers, investors, academics and deep-state imperial cronies. Their seaside corridors were not so much Roman as Mediterranean. And they saw themselves more as "citizens of the world" than as mere Roman citizens.

In the novel, vast, unprecedented wealth had produced license. On-the-make urbanites suck up and flatter the childless rich in hopes of being given estates rather than earning their own money.

The rich in turn exploit the young sexually and emotionally by offering them false hopes of landing an inheritance.

Petronius seems to mock the very world in which he indulged.

His novel's accepted norms are pornography, gratuitous violence, sexual promiscuity, transgenderism, delayed marriage, childlessness, fear of aging, homelessness, social climbing, ostentatious materialism, prolonged adolescence, and scamming and conning in lieu of working.

The characters are fixated on expensive fashion, exotic foods and pretentious name-dropping. They are the lucky inheritors of a dynamic Roman infrastructure that had globalized three continents. Rome had incorporated the shores of the Mediterranean under uniform law, science, institutions—all kept in check by Roman bureaucracy and the overwhelming power of the legions, many of them populated by non-Romans.

Never in the history of civilization had a generation become so wealthy and leisured, so eager to gratify every conceivable appetite—and yet so bored and unhappy.

But there was also a second Rome in the shadows. Occasionally the hipster antiheroes of the novel bump into old-fashioned rustics, shopkeepers and legionaries. They are what we might now call the ridiculed "deplorables" and "clingers."

Even Petronius suggests that these rougher sorts built and maintained the vast Roman Empire. They are caricatured as bumpkins and yet admired as simple, sturdy folk without the pretensions and decadence of the novel's urban drones.

Petronius is too skilled a satirist to paint a black-and-white picture of good old traditional Romans versus their corrupt urban successors. His point is subtler.

Globalization had enriched and united non-Romans into a world culture. That was an admirable feat. But such homogenization also attenuated the very customs, traditions and values that had led to such astounding Roman success in the first place.

The multiculturalism, urbanism and cosmopolitanism of "The Satyricon" reflected an exciting Roman mishmash of diverse languages, habits and lifestyles drawn from northern and Western Europe, Asia and Africa.

But the new empire also diluted a noble and unique Roman agrarianism. It eroded nationalism and patriotism. The empire's wealth, size and lack of cohesion ultimately diminished Roman unity, as well as traditional marriage, child-bearing and autonomy.

Education likewise was seen as ambiguous. In the novel, wide reading ensures erudition and sophistication, and helps science supplant superstition. But sometimes education is also ambiguous. Students become idle, pretentious loafers. Professors are no different from loud pedants. Writers are trite and boring. Elite pundits sound like gasbags.

Petronius seems to imply that whatever the Rome of his time was, it was likely not sustainable—but would at least be quite exciting in its splendid decline.

Petronius also argues that with too much rapid material progress comes moral regress. His final warning might be especially troubling for the current generation of Western Europeans and Americans. Even as we brag of globalizing the world and enriching the West materially and culturally, we are losing our soul in the process.

Getting married, raising families, staying in one place, still working with our hands and postponing gratification may be seen as boring and out of date. But nearly 2,000 years later, all of that is what still keeps civilization alive.

US MILITARY

From Page 10

important step in addressing the problem.

In "The Brothers Karamazov," Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote, "The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to such a pass that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others." This is the juncture our military leadership finds itself with the growing problem of military rape. To regain respect, the first step is a new model of investigation.

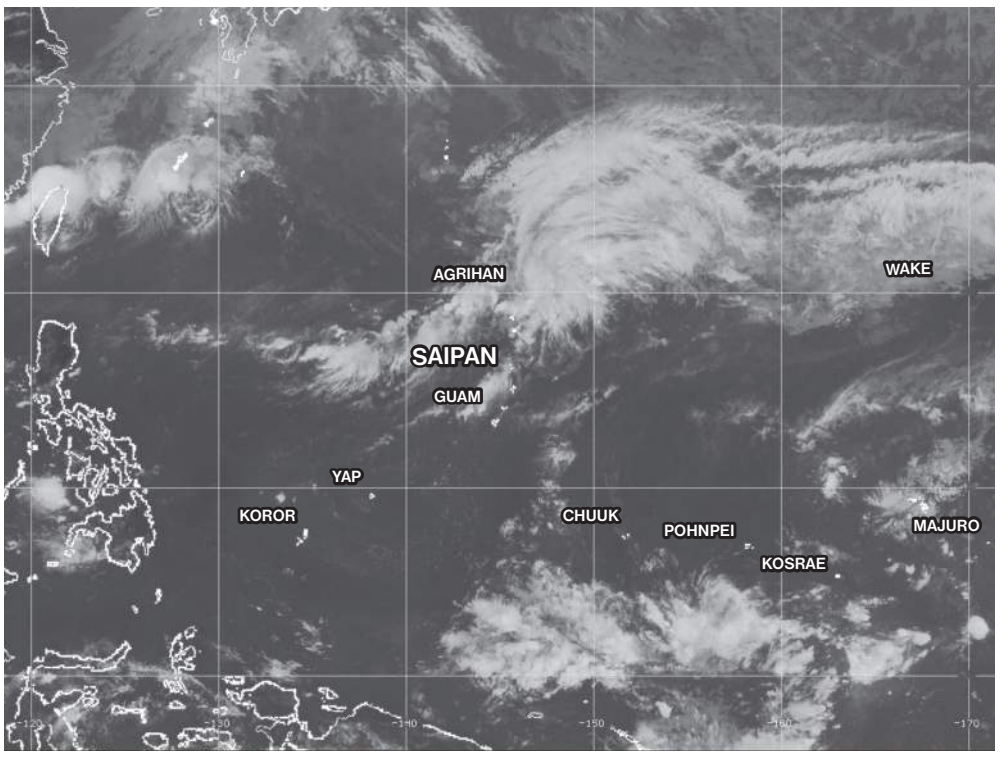
Cory Franklin is a Wilmette physician and author of Cook County ICU: 30 Years of Unforgettable Patients and Odd Cases. *Jim Nicholson, who died in February, was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and a longtime investigative reporter and obituary writer for the* Philadelphia Daily News. *They worked together on an early draft of this op-ed before Nicholson's death.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 78°	80° 70°	80° 70°	80° 70°	80° 70°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:03 AM, MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Southerly winds and isolated showers prevail over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 81°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	100° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	82° /77°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 50°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	69° / 56°
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 78°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 59°
Osaka	Sunny	81° / 63°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 52°
Busan	Sunny	79° / 61°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	70° / 52°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	93° / 69°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64° / 54°
Seoul	Sunny	82° / 55°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 62°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:29 AM	LOW TIDE	1.11
8:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.89
3:39 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.39
10:41 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.92

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:35 AM	7:59 PM
Wednesday	-	8:27 AM	8:54 PM
Thursday	-	9:19 AM	9:47 PM
Friday	-	10:11 AM	10:37 PM
Saturday	-	11:01 AM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ62	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Trump's 'great patriot' farmers follow him into a trade war

MADRID, Iowa (AP)—Iowa farmer Tim Bardole survived years of low crop prices and rising costs by cutting back on fertilizer and herbicides and fixing broken-down equipment rather than buying new. When President Donald Trump's trade war with China made a miserable situation worse, Bardole used up any equity his operation had and started investing in hogs in hopes they'll do better than crops.

A year later, the dispute is still raging and soybeans hit a 10-year-low. But Bardole says he supports his president more today than he did when he cast a ballot for Trump in 2016, skeptical he would follow through on his promises.

"He does really seem to be fighting for us," Bardole says, "even if it feels like the two sides are throwing punches and we're in the middle, taking most of the hits."

Trump won the presidency by winning rural America, in part by pledging to use his business savvy and tough negotiating skills to take on China and put an end to trade practices that have hurt farmers for years. While the prolonged fight has been devastating to an already-struggling agriculture industry, there's little indication Trump is paying a political price. But there's a big potential upside if he can get a better deal—and little downside if he continues to get credit for trying for the farmers caught in the middle. It's a calculation Trump recognizes heading into a reelection bid where he needs to hold on to farm states like Iowa and Wisconsin and is looking to flip others, like Minnesota.

In this May 22, 2018, photo, farmer Tim Bardole pauses for a photo as he plants a field near Perry, Iowa. AP

A March CNN/Des Moines Register poll of registered Republicans in Iowa found 81% approved of how Trump is handling his job, and 82% had a favorable view of the president, an increase of 5 points since December. About two-thirds said they'd definitely vote to re-elect him. The poll had a margin of error of 4.9 percentage points.

A February poll by the same organizations found 46% of Iowans approved of the job Trump was doing—his highest approval rating since taking office—while 50% said they disapprove. The margin of error was 3.5 percentage points.

Many farmers are lifelong Republicans who like other things Trump has done, such as reining in the EPA and tackling illegal immigration, and believe he's better for their interests than most Democrats even on his worst day. They give him credit for doing something previous presidents of both parties mostly talked about. And now that they've struggled for this long, they want to see him finish the job—and soon.

"We are the frontline soldiers getting killed as this trade war goes on," said Paul Jeschke, who grows corn and soybeans in northern Illinois, where he's about to plant his 45th crop.

"I'm unhappy and I think most of us are unhappy with the situation. But most of us understand the merits," he added. "And it's not like anyone else would be better. The smooth-talking presidents we've had recently—they certainly didn't get anything done."

When the trade war started last summer, China targeted its first round of tariffs on producers in agricultural and manufacturing states that were crucial to Trump's 2016 victory, such as Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. Particularly hard hit were producers of soybeans, the country's largest farm export.

The most recent round of trade talks between the Trump administration and China broke up earlier this month without an agreement, after Trump accused China of backing out on agreed-to parts of a deal and hiked tariffs on $200 billion of imports from China. China imposed retaliatory tariff hikes on $60 billion of American goods, and in the U.S. the price of soybeans fell to a 10-year low on fears of a protracted trade war. U.S. officials then listed $300 billion more of Chinese goods for possible tariff hikes.

As China vowed to "fight to the finish," Trump used Twitter to rally the farming community.

"Our great Patriot Farmers will be one of the biggest beneficiaries of what is happening now," Trump tweeted. "Hopefully China will do us the honor of continuing to buy our great farm product, the best, but if not your Country will be making up the difference based on a very high China buy."

He added: "The Farmers have been 'forgotten' for many years. Their time is now!"

To partially offset the plunge in sales caused by the tariffs, Trump has promised an aid package, some $15 billion for farmers and ranchers, following $11 billion in relief payments last year.

Beside the help prompted by the tariff dispute, a farm bill that Congress approves every five years provides farmers with hundreds of millions in additional federal aid. The subsidies have remained relatively stable, with the latest farm bill approved in December. Most of the aid helps growers of the largest crops, including corn and soybeans. Farmers also benefit from billions of dollars annually in federal insurance subsidies.

It's been six years since farmers did better than break even on corn, and five years since they made money off soybeans.

U.S. net farm income, a commonly used measure of profits, has plunged 45 percent since a high of $123.4 billion in 2013, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, reflecting American farmers' struggle to return to the profitability seen earlier in the decade. Chapter 12 bankruptcy filings for farm operations in the upper Midwest have doubled since June 2014, when commodity prices began to drop. The hardest hit were farms and dairy operations in Wisconsin, a state that supported Democrats for president for most of recent history before backing Trump and that will be a fierce 2020 battleground.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Some grounded Boeing 737 Max jets stored in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Some grounded Boeing 737 Max jets are being stored at a South Texas maintenance facility amid the investigation into two fatal crashes overseas. The San Antonio Express-News reports a Boeing spokesman declined to say how many of the jets are at the 168-acre (67.989-hectare) Port San Antonio site. Paul R. Bergman says Boeing is also storing 737 Max jets at facilities around Seattle. Planes are manufactured in nearby Renton, Washington. Bergman says the Boeing San Antonio site will temporarily store jets for inventory management. Several 737 Max jets were seen parked at the location last week. Crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia killed more than 340 people and led to grounding of Max 737 jets in mid-March. Boeing this month announced it finished updates to the flight-controlled software implicated in the crashes.

UAE energy minister hints at support for oil production cuts

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—The United Arab Emirates' energy minister said Sunday he does not think oil producing nations should relax the production cuts currently in place. Suhail al-Mazrouei spoke to reporters on the sidelines of a meeting in Saudi Arabia of the world's major oil producers. His comments suggested there's support within the OPEC oil cartel to extend the 1.2 million barrels a day cut in place since January. "I don't think, as the UAE, that today from the market conditions that we are seeing that relaxing the cut is the right measure," he said. He added that there have not been major oil shortages in the market from U.S. sanctions on Iranian and Venezuelan oil exports. As part of the six-month deal reached in December, OPEC countries, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, were expected to cut production by 800,000 barrels a day while non-OPEC countries, including Russia, trim 400,000. The meeting Sunday in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jiddah was aimed at monitoring and reporting conformity levels of countries to that agreement.

US to roll out economic part of Mideast peace plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration will unveil the first phase of its long-awaited blueprint for Mideast peace next month at a conference in the region designed to highlight economic benefits that could be reaped if the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is resolved, the White House said Sunday.

The plan, which has been two years in the making, envisions large-scale investment and infrastructure work in the Palestinian territories. But the central political elements remain mostly unknown. And the economic workshop, June 25-26 in Bahrain, will not address the most contentious parts of the conflict: borders, the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees and Israel's security.

In a joint statement with Bahrain, the White House said the workshop will give government, civil and business leaders a chance to gather support for economic initiatives that could be possible with a peace agreement.

The U.S. wants to ensure security for Israel and economic opportunity to improve the lives of Palestinians. The administration hopes that Arab countries will help bankroll economic incentives, such as infrastructure and industrial projects, to get Palestinians to buy into the plan. But with details of the political aspects of the plan still under wraps, any commitments for economic development won't be easily attained.

"The Palestinian people, along with all people in the Middle East, deserve a future with dignity and the opportunity to better their lives," President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, said in a statement Sunday. "Economic progress can only be achieved with a solid economic vision and if the core political issues are resolved."

Kushner and Jason Greenblatt, envoy of international negotiations, have been leading efforts to write the plan, but so far, there's been no participation from the Palestinians. The Palestinian Authority, which has complained that the White House favors Israel, severed ties with the Trump administration following several actions targeting them.

Trump closed the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Washington, saying the Palestinians refused to engage in peace talks with Israel. The U.S. stopped funding the U.N. agency that helps Palestinian refugees, slashing hundreds of millions of dollars in aid for projects in the West Bank and Gaza and cutting funding to hospitals in Jerusalem that serve Palestinians.

Nation

Hundreds protest Alabama abortion ban: 'My body, my choice!'

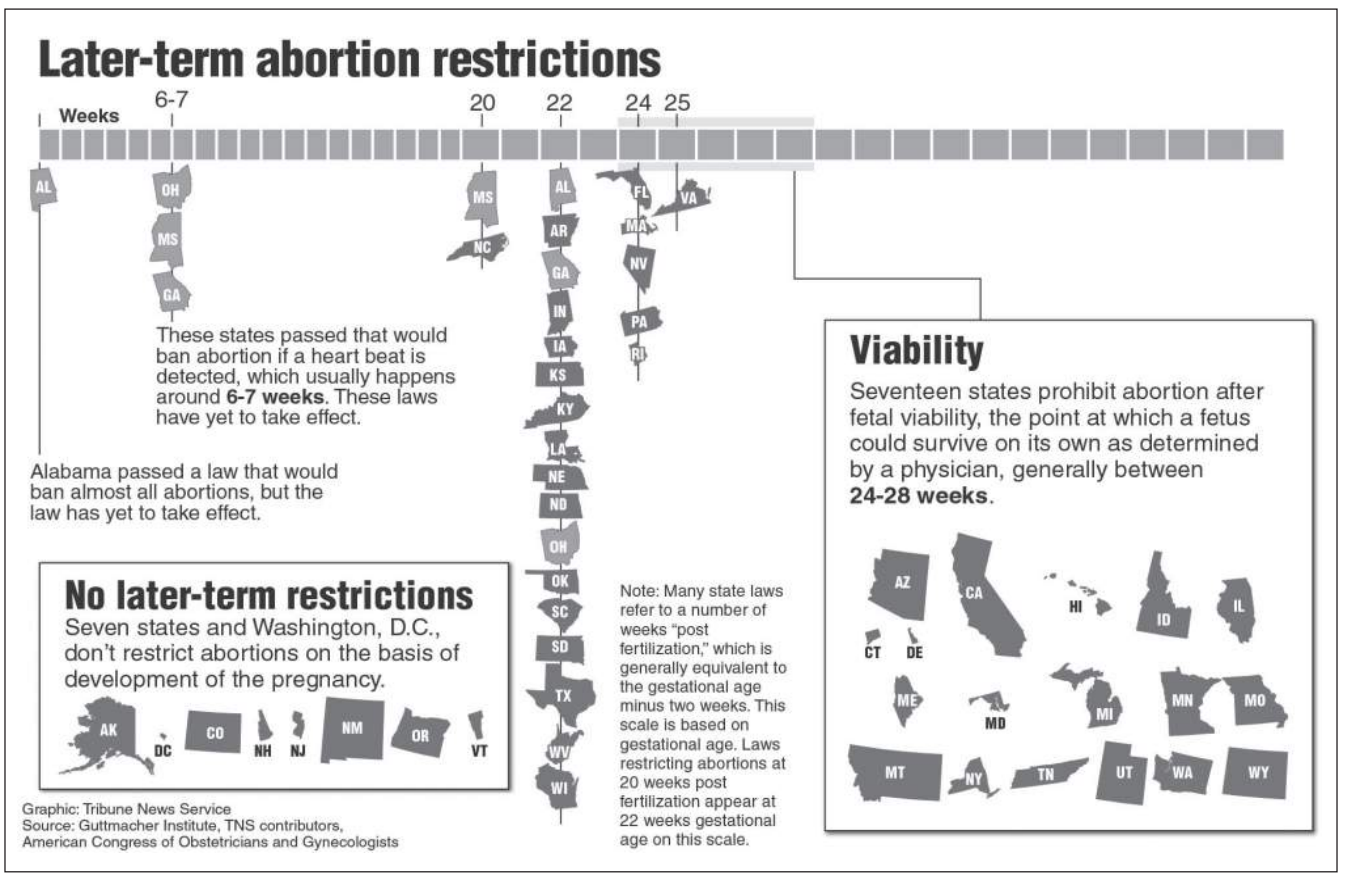
MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Hundreds of demonstrators marched to the Alabama Capitol on Sunday to protest the state's newly approved abortion ban, chanting "my body, my choice!" and "vote them out!"

The demonstration came days after Gov. Kay Ivey signed the most stringent abortion law in the nation— making performing an abortion a felony in nearly all cases unless necessary for the mother's health. The law provides no exception for rape and incest.

"Banning abortion does not stop abortion. It stops safe abortion," said Staci Fox, CEO and president of Planned Parenthood Southeast, addressing the cheering crowd outside the Alabama Capitol.

Alabama is part of a wave of conservative states seeking to mount new legal challenges to Roe v. Wade, the 1973 landmark Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion nationwide. Governors in Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio and Georgia have approved bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, which can happen as early as the sixth week of pregnancy.

None of the laws has actually taken effect, and all are expected to be blocked by the courts as the legal challenges play out with an ultimate eye on the Supreme Court.


Later-term abortion restrictions
Weeks
6-7
20
22
24
25
These states passed that would ban abortion if a heart beat is detected, which usually happens around 6-7 weeks. These laws have yet to take effect.
Alabama passed a law that would ban almost all abortions, but the law has yet to take effect.
No later-term restrictions
Seven states and Washington, D.C., don't restrict abortions on the basis of development of the pregnancy.
Viability
Seventeen states prohibit abortion after fetal viability, the point at which a fetus could survive on its own as determined by a physician, generally between 24-28 weeks.
Note: Many state laws refer to a number of weeks "post fertilization," which is generally equivalent to the gestational age minus two weeks. This scale is based on gestational age. Laws restricting abortions at 20 weeks post fertilization appear at 22 weeks gestational age on this scale.
Graphic: Tribune News Service
Source: Guttmacher Institute, TNS contributors, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Marchers on Sunday said the measures have energized supporters of legalized abortion, and they say they are digging in for a legal and political fight. Along the route they took, the protesters passed by scattered counterdemonstrators raising signs against abortion.

Two speakers at the rally on the Capitol steps shared their stories of having an abortion, including a woman who came out of the crowd to describe the abortion she had after being raped at a party at age 18.

Carrying an orange sign with a coat hanger and the caption "No Never Again," 69-year-old Deborah Hall of Montgomery said she remembers life before Roe and can't believe the push to return there.

"I had friends who had illegal abortions and barely survived," said Hall, who for a time ran a clinic in Montgomery that provided abortion, birth control and other services.

"I still cannot believe it. It's really a scary time for everybody," she said of the push to overturn Roe.

Similar demonstrations were held in Birmingham and Huntsville on Sunday.

Amanda Reyes, who runs Yellowhammer Fund, a nonprofit that provides funding to help low-income women obtain abortions, said donations have begun streaming in since passage of the Alabama bill.

Groups this week paid for a small plane carrying a banner "Abortion is Okay!" to circle the Capitol and the Governor's Mansion.

The Alabama law would make it a felony, punishable by up to 99 years or life in prison to perform an abortion. There would be no punishment for the woman receiving the abortion.

But the protest outside the Capitol Sunday comes in a state where a majority of voters recently agreed to put anti-abortion language in the Alabama Constitution. Fifty-nine % of state voters in November approved the constitutional amendment saying the state recognizes the rights of the "unborn."

"To the bill's many supporters, this legislation stands as a powerful testament to Alabamians' deeply held belief that every life is precious and that every life is a sacred gift from God," Ivey said in a statement after signing the ban into law.

The Alabama law has also come under criticism by some conservatives who have expressed discomfort by the lack of exceptions for rape and incest.

President Donald Trump, while not mentioning Alabama's law, wrote in a weekend tweet that he is strongly "pro-life" but favors exceptions.

Trump denies plans to fly migrants from border to Florida

MIAMI (AP)—President Donald Trump on Sunday denied reports that hundreds of migrants would be flown from the Mexican border to Florida and other areas in the U.S. interior to lessen the workload at crowded Border Patrol facilities.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan, also on Sunday, acknowledged that federal officials did initially alert local leaders of the possibility that migrants would be flown to two South Florida counties. But Trump appeared to blame the media for "false reporting."

"There are no plans to send migrants to northern or Coastal Border facilities, including Florida," Trump wrote on Twitter. "...Our country is FULL, will not, and cannot, take you in!"

The office of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis also said Sunday that Trump told him he didn't approve and wouldn't authorize to fly the immigrants.

The governor' spokeswoman Helen Ferre said DeSantis spoke with Trump on Saturday, two days after local officials reacted with alarm to a U.S. Border Patrol notification that 1,000 migrants could be sent on a weekly basis to Palm Beach and Broward counties, starting in about two weeks.

After the plan was attacked by local leaders last week, federal officials initially said the flights were only being considered and nothing was happening immediately.

On Sunday, McAleenan said that Florida and other cities in the interior were no longer in consideration. He appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation" and said the plan "wasn't going to be an effective use of government resources."

"We looked at it from a planning perspective. We do have stations in Florida ... they are very small stations, they have a few agents that are busy patrolling their areas," he said. He added that the decision to take the sectors of Miami, Detroit and Buffalo off the table was made Saturday by John Sanders, acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The agency's Miami sector includes all South Florida.

"We had to look at all options," he said.

The government has run out of space to process migrants who have been arriving at the Texas border. McAleenan said there are currently 16,000 people in custody at Border Patrol stations and ports of entry. The government began flying hundreds of migrants from Texas to San Diego, to distribute the workload at Border Patrol facilities more evenly.

Once migrants are processed, they are released and given a court date in a city where they plan to reside, often with family members, which could be anywhere in the U.S.

DeSantis apparently had been caught off guard and said such flights would amount to "dumping" migrants on Florida. He appeared upset that Florida was even a consideration, especially after he recently signed a bill banning sanctuary cities and pledging to help federal immigration authorities.

Trump and DeSantis are close. The president endorsed DeSantis, which propelled him from underdog to winner in last year's governor's race.

ACROSS THE NATION

Alaska man given Coast Guard medal years after girl's rescue

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—An Alaska man has received the U.S. Coast Guard's second-highest civilian honor for saving a girl from drowning when they were both children more than 20 years ago, a report said. George Lambert received a silver lifesaving medal in Anchorage Saturday for rescuing Pamela Smith, The Anchorage Daily News reported Saturday. The award was presented by Coast Guard Rear Admiral Matthew Bell Jr., who told the story of the rescue during a ceremony attended by Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy. Lambert and Smith were among a group swimming at a sandbar near Kotzebue in northwest Alaska in 1998 when he was 10 and she was 12. Smith was pulled into the current, and Lambert took a life jacket and swam out 100 feet (30 meters) to tow Smith to safety, Bell said. "I just ran to the boat and grabbed a jacket, didn't even think about it, put it on, jumped in that water, went and got my friend and made it back to shore," Lambert said. "And we're here to talk about it today."

Trial for Tennessee church shooting suspect to start Monday

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A man accused of fatally shooting a woman and wounding seven people at a Nashville church is heading to trial. Prosecutors have said they're seeking life without parole for 27-year-old Emanuel Kidega Samson, whose trial is slated to begin Monday. Samson faces a 43-count indictment, including a first-degree murder charge, in the September 2017 shooting at Burnette Chapel Church of Christ . An arrest affidavit says Samson waived his rights and told police he arrived armed and fired at the church. A psychiatrist has diagnosed Samson with "schizoaffective disorder bipolar type" and post-traumatic stress disorder after an abusive, violent upbringing. Samson is black and the victims are white. Authorities haven't definitively said whether they believe he targeted them based on race.

Man charged in abduction of 8-year-old Texas girl

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—A man has been charged in the abduction of an 8-year-old girl who was snatched from a street in Fort Worth, Texas, as she walked with her mother. Fort Worth police say the girl was found safe Sunday, about eight hours later, at a hotel in nearby Forest Hill. Police say 51-year-old Michael Webb was arrested on an aggravated kidnapping charge. He is being held without bond. Officer Buddy Calzada says a man grabbed the girl Saturday evening, and sped away with her in a car. Police released surveillance video of the car . Police found Webb and the girl at the hotel after witnesses reported seeing the car there. She was taken to a hospital. Online records don't an attorney representing Webb who can speak on his behalf.

Asia

Australia's leader vows to get back to work after shock win

SYDNEY (AP)—A jubilant Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison vowed Sunday to get straight back to work after a shock election victory by his conservative government that has left bewildered voters wondering how they were taken by surprise.

The opposition Labor Party, meanwhile, began another bout of postelection soul searching while starting the task of finding a new leader, after Bill Shorten stepped down following an emphatic defeat Saturday in a poll many had seen as unlosable for his party.

Center-left Labor, which has governed Australia for only 38 of its 118 years as a federation, was rated an overwhelming favorite, both in opinion polls and with odds-makers, to topple the conservative Liberal-National coalition government after its six years in power.

Instead, Morrison—who became prime minister only last August when a contentious internal party vote dumped Malcolm Turnbull as its leader—swept the coalition to victory with what is likely to be an increased representation in Parliament.

The result is much the same as the last election, which delivered the government a single-seat majority in 2016. Since then, public expectations have taken a roller coaster ride based on the media's reporting of polls.

Opinion polling has been a factor in conservative and Labor governments ousting four of their own prime ministers in the past decade, mostly recently elevating Morrison to prime minister.

Sydney University political scientist Stewart Jackson said the polls that had put Labor ahead of the government for the past two years were too consistent for too long to be credible.

"That indicates 'herding,' where the pollsters themselves are getting results that they don't think are right and are adjusting them," Jackson said. "Because statistically, polls should never come up like that."

Martin O'Shannessy, who headed the respected Newspoll market research company in Sydney for a decade until 2015, said he was "shocked" by the government's victory, given the polling.

"It's not possible to tell exactly how the current polls are being conducted because they don't have the same method statement that polls in the past have had," O'Shannessy said.

Until Saturday, Newspoll had accurately predicted the winner of every Australian state and federal election since its inception in 1985. Australia has made voting compulsory, so pollsters' surveys of Australians' party preferences usually come close to the election result.

Newspolls are published every few weeks and are reported by the Australian media like a game score of the government and opposition's popularity and achievements.

Morrison's predecessor, Turnbull, justified overthrowing his predecessor, Tony Abbott, in 2015 on the basis of "30 losing Newspolls."

Turnbull's administration had trailed Labor in more than 30 Newspolls before his government replaced him with Morrison as elections loomed.

O'Shannessy said Sunday, "You should never sack the prime minister on the basis of a Newspoll—ever."

Labor lawmaker Anthony Albanese, who was defeated by Shorten in a ballot of the party leadership in 2013 and will contest for the job again, said he had expected to be in government based on polling.

"The truth is that clearly there is a major gap between what the polling was showing and what the outcome was," Albanese said. "That is something that no doubt will be examined over coming days and weeks."

AP

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, second right, arrives on stage to speak to party supporters flanked by his wife, Jenny, and daughters Lily, and Abbey, left, after his opponent concedes defeat in the federal election in Sydney, Australia, Sunday, May 19, 2019.

India's marathon election ends, vote count begins on Thursday

KOLKATA, India (AP)—Voting in India's mammoth national election ended Sunday with the seventh and final phase of a grueling poll that lasted more than five weeks, as exit polls predicted a victory for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party and its allies.

Vote counting begins on Thursday, and the election result will likely be known the same day.

The election is seen as a referendum on Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP's main opposition is the Congress party, led by Rahul Gandhi, the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty that has produced three prime ministers.

Exit polls by four leading television news channels - Republic, TimesNow, New Delhi Television and India today- projected a victory for the BJP and its allies with 287 to 339 seats out of 543 - far ahead of the 272 seats needed to form the next government.

The Congress party and its allies are likely to win 122 to 128 seats, the TV channels said. Indian television channels have had a mixed record in the past in predicting election results.

Total voter turnout in the national election was 64.9%, the election commission said, lower than 66.40% in the last national vote in 2014.

Gandhi questioned the way the election was conducted by the autonomous Election Commission, saying the election schedule was manipulated to help Modi's party.

"The EC used to be feared & respected. Not anymore," Gandhi tweeted Sunday evening, without giving any details.

Sunday's voting covered Modi's constituency of Varanasi, a holy Hindu city where he was elected in 2014 with an impressive margin of over 200,000 votes. Modi spent Saturday night at Kedarnath, a temple of the Hindu god Shiva nestled in the Himalayas in northern India.

The final election round included 59 constituencies in eight states. Up for grabs were 13 seats in Punjab and an equal number in Uttar Pradesh, eight each in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, nine in West Bengal, four in Himachal Pradesh and three in Jharkhand and Chandigarh.

In Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, voters lined up outside polling stations early Sunday morning to avoid the scorching heat, with temperatures reaching 38 degrees Celsius (100 Fahrenheit). Armed security officials stood guard in and outside the centers amid fear of violence.

While the election, which began April 11, was largely peaceful, West Bengal, located in eastern India, was an exception. Modi is challenged there by the state's chief minister, Mamata Banerjee, who heads the more inclusive Trinamool Congress party and is eyeing a chance to go to New Delhi as the opposition's candidate for prime minister.

Kashmir group seeks UN probe into torture by India troops

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A prominent rights group in Indian-controlled Kashmir is advocating for the United Nations to establish a commission of inquiry to investigate what it calls the endemic use of torture by government forces who have faced a decades-long anti-India uprising in the disputed region.

The Jammu-Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society on Monday released a detailed report saying India is using torture as a "matter of policy" and "instrument of control" in Kashmir, where rebels have fought Indian rule since 1989.

"Torture is the most underreported human rights violation perpetrated by the state," the report noted. "Due to legal, political and moral impunity extended to the armed forces, not a single prosecution has taken place in any case of human rights violations" in the region, the report said.

Indian authorities said they would study the report before commenting on it. In the past, officials have acknowledged torture exists in Kashmir but have denied that Indian forces strategically use sexual and other abuses to control the population.

The 560-page report, researched for a decade, recommends an investigation be led by the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. It also urges India to ratify the U.N. Convention against torture and also allow global rights groups "unhindered access" to Kashmir.

Last year, the U.N. in its first report on Kashmir called for an independent international investigation into reports of rights violations like rape, torture and extrajudicial killings in the region. The report, which JKCCS helped with field research, particularly criticized Indian troops for firing shotgun pellets against protesters, blinding and maiming hundreds of people, including children.

India rejected the U.N. report as "fallacious."

The new report includes 432 case studies involving torture and maps trends and patterns, targets, perpetrators, locations and other details. The cases include 293 civilians and 119 militants, among others, and 27 were minors when they were tortured.

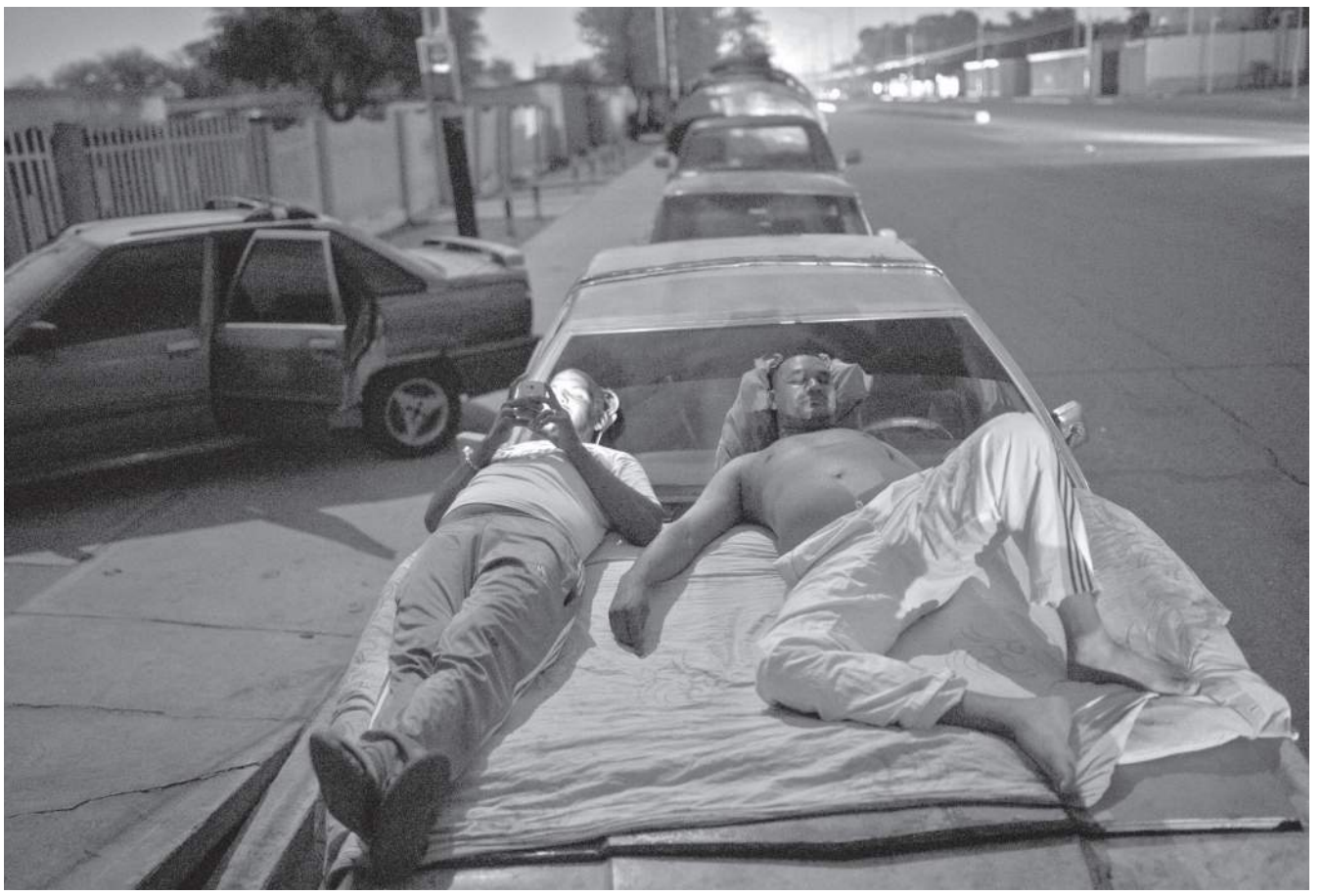
Juan E. Mendz, former U.N. special rapporteur on torture, said the report would help draw attention to the need to express concern about India's human rights record.

"For the worldwide struggle against torture, this report will constitute a landmark," Mendz, who teaches human rights law at American University in Washington, wrote in the prologue of the report. "I am convinced that a report, when it is as rigorous, evidence-based and persuasive as this one is, constitutes a building block towards public awareness of the tragedy of torture."

JKCCS has written scathing reports in the past about the brutality by some of the hundreds of thousands of Indian troops stationed in the region and highlighted the widespread of powers granted to them, which has led to culture of impunity and rights abuses. They were first to publicize thousands of unmarked graves in remote parts of Kashmir and demand that they be investigated to determine who the dead were and how they were killed.

World

Vast gasoline lines form in oil-rich Venezuela



AP

Andres Quintero, left, and Fermin Perez rest on top of Perez's car as they wait in line for over 20 hours to fill their tanks with gas in Cabimas, Venezuela, Thursday, May 16, 2019.

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (AP)—U.S. sanctions on oil-rich Venezuela appear to be taking hold, resulting in mile-long lines for fuel in the South American nation's second-largest city, Maracaibo.

Some drivers said they'd had to wait almost 24 hours to fuel up, and people have been grabbing catnaps on the hoods of cars or in truck beds.

Nearing empty and stuck in line, infectious diseases doctor Yoli Urdaneta said she couldn't make her shift to treat patients.

"I've spent four days trying to get gasoline," Urdaneta said. "But I couldn't."

A satellite cruising over Maracaibo on Thursday captured pictures of cars lined up for a mile (1.6 kilometers) through the city to the pumps, according to by Maxar Technologies, a U.S.-based space technology company.

Russ Dallen, a Miami-based partner at the brokerage firm Caracas Capital Markets, said Sunday that stiff U.S. sanctions on top of decaying refineries has begun to hit home.

Venezuela doesn't have the cash to import key ingredients to keep up production in a country with the world's largest oil reserves, said Dallen, who estimated that the state run oil-firm PDVSA is producing 10 to 15% of its capacity.

"It's all coming together in a toxic brew," Dallen said. "That is really having a devastating effect."

The Trump administration this year sanctioned PDVSA in an effort aimed at driving President Nicolás Maduro from office, while throwing its support behind opposition leader Juan Guadó.

The U.S. sanctions essentially cut off Maduro's government from its Houston-based subsidiary Citgo, depriving officials of an estimated $11 billion in hard currency from exports this year. U.S. officials say this cash flow long bankrolled what they call Maduro's "dictatorship."

Sanctions also put the squeeze on Venezuela access to diluents needed to thin its tar-like heavy crude so it can be piped over 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the field to be turned into gasoline.

And the political stalemate shows few signs of drawing near its end.

In a recent flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at peacefully solving Venezuela's crisis, European officials said they held intensive meetings over two days in Caracas with key players.

At about the same time, Maduro's government and the opposition sent representatives to talks in Norway. Officials engaged in both efforts reported no breakthroughs.

The panic over shortages has crept into the capital, Caracas, leading to moderately long lines for the last three days at many stations.

Across the country in Maracaibo, angry drivers lined up complaining that police were profiting off their frustrations. Drivers said officers overseeing the lines allowed some to pay the equivalent of $3.60—more than half of the monthly minimum wage—to cut into a shorter line while others waited to fill up their tank with subsidized fuel that costs less than a penny.

José Eustaquio Pérez, 65, said he took the offer.

"I'm too old and I'm not in the mood to wait in this long line," he said. "I don't feel good, so I paid it to get out of here."

Saudis say they will defend themselves, as Trump warns Iran

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Saudi Arabia does not want war but will not hesitate to defend itself against Iran, a top Saudi diplomat said Sunday after the kingdom's energy sector was targeted this past week amid heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. President Donald Trump, meanwhile, warned Iran that it will face destruction if it seeks a fight, while Iranian officials said their country isn't looking for war. Trump spoke after a rocket hit near the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi minister of state for foreign affairs, spoke a week after four oil tankers— two of them Saudi—were targeted in an alleged act of sabotage off the coast of the United Arab Emirates and days after Iran-allied Yemeni rebels claimed a drone attack on a Saudi oil pipeline.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not want war in the region and does not strive for that... but at the same time, if the other side chooses war, the kingdom will fight this with all force and determination and it will defend itself, its citizens and its interests," al-Jubeir told reporters.

On Sunday night, the U.S. military command that oversees the Mideast confirmed an explosion outside the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad and said there were no U.S. or coalition casualties.

A State Department spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that "a low-grade rocket did land within the International Zone near the U.S. Embassy." The spokesman said that "attacks on U.S. personnel and facilities will not be tolerated and will be responded to in a decisive manner" and added that the U.S. will hold "Iran responsible if any such attacks are conducted by its proxy militia forces or elements of such forces."

Earlier, after initial reports of the attack, Trump tweeted a warning to Iranian leaders: "If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran. Never threaten the United States again!" Trump tweeted.

A senior Iranian military commander was quoted as saying his country is not looking for war, in comments published in Iranian media on Sunday.

Fears of armed conflict were already running high after the White House ordered warships and bombers to the region earlier this month to counter an alleged, unexplained threat from Iran. The U.S. also has ordered nonessential staff out of its diplomatic posts in Iraq.

Trump had appeared to soften his tone in recent days, saying he expected Iran to seek negotiations with his administration. Asked on Thursday if the U.S. might be on a path to war with Iran, the president answered, "I hope not."

Sunday night's apparent rocket attack was the first such incident since September, when three mortar shells landed in an abandoned lot inside the Green Zone.

Iraqi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasoul told The Associated Press that a Katyusha rocket fell near the statue of the Unknown Soldier, less than a mile from the U.S. Embassy. He said that the military was investigating the cause but that the rocket was believed to have been fired from east Baghdad. The area is home to Iran-backed Shiite militias.

As tensions escalate between the U.S. and Iran, there have been concerns that Baghdad could once again get caught in the middle , just as it is on the path to recovery. The country hosts more than 5,000 U.S. troops, and is home to powerful Iranian-backed militias, some of whom want those U.S. forces to leave.

The U.S. Navy said Sunday it had conducted exercises in the Arabian Sea with the aircraft carrier strike group ordered to the region to counter the unspecified threat from Iran. The Navy said the exercises and training were conducted Friday and Saturday with the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group in coordination with the U.S. Marine Corps, highlighting U.S. "lethality and agility to respond to threat," as well as to deter conflict and preserve U.S. strategic interests.

The current tensions are rooted in Trump's decision last year to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers and impose wide-reaching sanctions, including on Iranian oil exports that are crucial to its economy.

Bomb hits tourist bus near Egypt's Giza Pyramids, wounds about 17

CAIRO (AP)—A roadside bomb hit a tourist bus on Sunday near the Giza Pyramids, wounding at least 17 people including tourists, Egyptian officials said.

The officials said the bus was travelling on a road close to the under-construction Grand Egyptian Museum, which is located adjacent to the Giza Pyramids but is not yet open to tourists.

The bus was carrying at least 25 people mostly from South Africa, officials added.

The attack comes as Egypt's vital tourism industry is showing signs of recovery after years in the doldrums because of the political turmoil and violence that followed a 2011 uprising that toppled former leader Hosni Mubarak.

The officials said security forces cordoned off the site of the explosion and the wounded were taken to a nearby hospital.

The explosion damaged a windshield of another car, they said. Footage circulated online shows shattered windows of the bus.

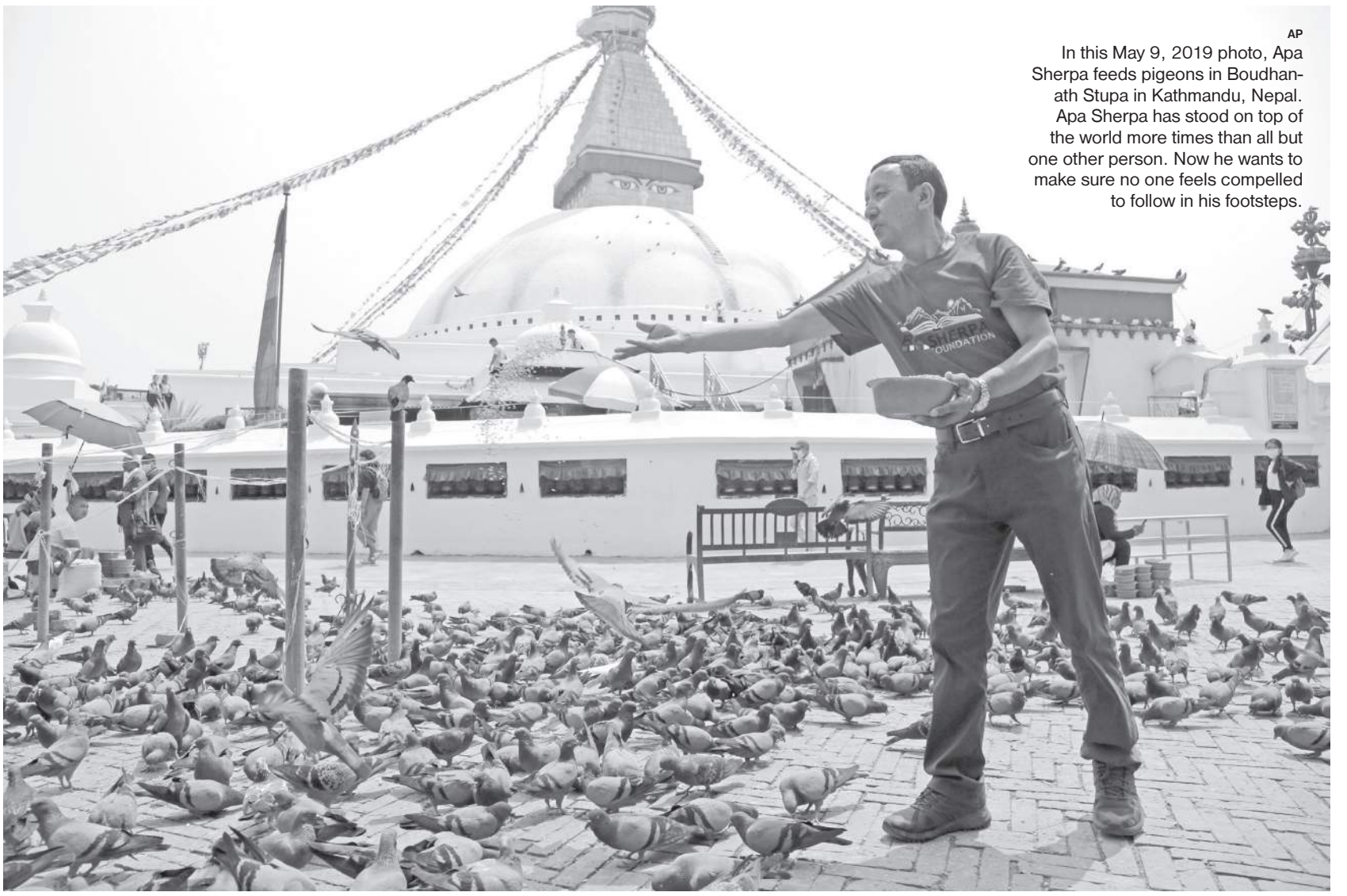
The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

Atif Moftah, general supervisor of the Grand Egyptian Museum, said the explosion did not cause any damage to the museum, in a statement issued by the antiquities ministry.

No group has immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. It is the second to target foreign tourists near the famed pyramids in less than six months. In December, a bus carrying 15 Vietnamese tourists was hit by a roadside bomb, killing at least three of them.

Egypt has battled Islamic militants for years in the Sinai Peninsula in an insurgency that has occasionally spilled over to the mainland, hitting minority Christians or tourists. The insurgency gained strength after the 2013 military overthrow of the country's first freely elected president, an Islamist whose brief rule sparked mass protests.

Focus



AP
In this May 9, 2019 photo, Apa Sherpa feeds pigeons in Boudhanath Stupa in Kathmandu, Nepal. Apa Sherpa has stood on top of the world more times than all but one other person. Now he wants to make sure no one feels compelled to follow in his footsteps.

Famed Sherpa climber helps NEPAL kids reach greater heights

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Apa Sherpa has stood on top of the world more times than all but one other person. Now he wants to make sure no one feels compelled to follow in his footsteps.

As a boy growing up in Nepal, Sherpa dreamed of becoming a doctor, but poverty and lack of education steered him to a far more dangerous path: Working as a guide on Mount Everest, carrying climbing equipment and helping foreign mountaineers scale the world's tallest peak.

Now retired in the U.S., Sherpa returns every year to his roots in the foothills of the Himalayas to provide financial assistance to village schools and try to show children from the Sherpa minority group that they have options in life.

"Sherpas take big risks in the mountains to earn a living for their families because they are unable to take up any other jobs," the 59-year-old said. "My main goal is to ensure children in the future don't have to take up climbing like we did."

Sherpa tribespeople were mostly yak herders and traders living deep within the Himalayas until Nepal opened its borders to foreigners in the 1950s. As adventurers began arriving to conquer the country's famous peaks, the Sherpas with their mountain experience found themselves in demand as guides and porters.

To this day they are an indispensable part of Nepal's climbing industry, which brings in $300 million to the country each year. But advocates say Nepal's estimated 350,000 Sherpa remain marginalized, with many living in remote, impoverished villages connected to the rest of the country only by footpaths and small airstrips. Access to schooling beyond the primary level is rare.

The Apa Sherpa Foundation, set up in 2012, has been seeking to change that, paying teacher salaries in several villages to ensure schools remain open and providing hot lunches, computers, books, pens and warm clothes to motivate children to attend classes.

"Most people in the area have now realized the value of educating their children and they do their best to send their children to school," Sherpa said. "But many schools face difficulties, so we try and help them whatever way possible."

When Sherpa was growing up, the school in his village, Thame, offered education only up to the second grade. He continued his studies in another village for two more years, walking the mountain trails for six hours each day, but had to drop out when his father died and he had to take on the responsibility of feeding his family.

AP
In this May 9, 2019 photo, Apa Sherpa, center, with members of his foundation walk around Boudhanath Stupa in Kathmandu, Nepal.

By the age of 12 he was working on climbing expeditions. At age 30, he summited Everest for the first time. He repeated the feat almost every year after, going on to become one of Everest's greatest guides and earning the nickname "Super Sherpa."

When he retired in 2011, he jointly held the record for having climbed the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) peak 21 times with fellow Sherpa Phurba Tashi. Another Sherpa, Kami Rita, would go on to break the record and on May 15 reached the summit for the 23rd time.

"Everyone said 21 was a good number," Sherpa noted of the timing for his retirement, which fulfilled a long-standing promise to his wife.

Sherpas are the first to reach Everest each climbing season and the last to leave. They set up the camps, carry the equipment and cook the food for climbing parties. Most importantly, they fix the ropes and ladders over the crevasses and icefalls that enable mountaineers to scale the peak.

The work has earned the Sherpas prestige, as well as income far above average wages in Nepal.

Experienced guides like Sherpa who take climbers all the way to the top of Everest make $10,000 or more, while porters or cooks at mountaineers' camps average between $3,000 and $5,000 during their three months of work. That's a huge amount compared to Nepal's $1,035 annual per capita income.

Sherpa himself was able to move to the U.S. state of Utah in 2006 so that his children could have a better education.

But Sherpas also bear the largest brunt of the danger and death that go hand-in-hand with the industry. In 2014, 16 Sherpa guides were buried by an avalanche on Everest as they carried supplies. The following year, another 10 were among those killed when an earthquake triggered an avalanche that tore through Everest base camp.

After the 2014 disaster, Sherpas refused to work, prompting the government to introduce new rules for better wages, increasing insurance payouts and improving rescue operations for Sherpas.

Sherpa himself had many near misses, having survived blizzards, frostbite, inadequate oxygen supplies and the deaths of fellow mountaineers. Given a choice, he said, many Sherpas would probably never take up the work.

In the past few weeks, members of his foundation and trekkers have hiked to six schools to drop off supplies. They also distribute supplies to monasteries. As Buddhists, Sherpas often send their children to live and study at monasteries, a tradition that also relieves parents of the burden of having to feed and educate them at home.

In addition to making sure children have access to school, there is also the issue of ensuring teachers are hired. Of the eight teachers the government says are needed at the village school in Thame, it says it can only afford to hire three.

Sherpa's foundation helps to pay the salaries of another five teachers who have not been formally hired.

"It is really difficult to find qualified teachers to move to remote villages and we don't have enough money to pay all their salaries," said Khagendra Shrestha, the chief education officer for the district in charge of Thame.

Sherpa's foundation mostly collects funds from donations, talks, dinners and screenings. Last year, it raised $80,000. It also has sponsorship from the outdoor equipment supplier Thule thanks to Sherpa's fame.

"Apa's vision was that he wanted the children to have a choice through education," said foundation board member Valerie Littleton. "He is very passionate about giving back to the country he loves."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: The over-caffeinated 2019 Hyundai Kona is like a really great cup of coffee

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Maybe it's me, but things are no longer what they seem. It's as if everything is, in reality, something else.

Many brands that were once hallmarks of American innovation are now merely labels for the manufacturing prowess of foreign companies, including RCA, Westinghouse, Motorola, GE and Frigidaire. Even Apple and Dell are guilty; China's Foxconn builds their products.

Yet it also works in reverse, something I discovered when my beloved Braun Aromaster finally broke, leaving me to find a new coffeemaker.

It turns out that Proctor & Gamble, the company that produces Puffs, Pampers and Pepto Bismol, owns Braun. And although coffeemakers wear the name of the famed German manufacturer, they are actually made by Italy's De'Longhi.

Regardless, the Aromaster is no longer available in the U.S., although it's still sold in Europe. Which leaves me with the question of what to replace it with. A Keurig? Never! I'll stick with Braun, but will have to settle for one of the charmlessly large model available.

It's ironic that my coffeemaker would give up the ghost the same week I'm driving the all-new 2019 Hyundai Kona, a vehicle as satisfying as the cup of coffee it brings to mind. The question is, is it a Braun or a Keurig?

From a looks standpoint, it's a Braun, albeit a new one. There's little sense of classicism here, merely an over-caffeinated design that wears its cheap gray plastic cladding reminiscent of a Pontiac Aztek. Couple that with an over-caffeinated headlight design, a large aggressive grille, swoopy side sculpting, bulging wheel arches and the cliched blacked-out rear roof pillars, and you'll wonder if Homer Simpson — or someone at De'Longhi — designed it.

It cloaks a perfectly ingratiating subcompact crossover, one that starts at a reasonable $21,035. Offered in SE and SEL trim with a 147-horsepower 2.0-liter engine mated to a six-speed automatic transmission, it's also available in plusher Limited, Ultimate and Iron Man trim (the latter being finished in gray and red) starting at $26,595, and fitted with a 174-horsepower 1.6-liter four mated to a seven-speed dual-clutch transmission. All models come with front-wheel drive or all-wheel drive. Opting for all-wheel drive brings an added benefit beyond added traction; it also replaces the primitive rear beam axle suspension with a more sophisticated multi-link rear suspension.

Consider the base vehicle a Keurig. It's adequate, but you're missing the extra flavor and zip that comes from the turbocharged four, which is truly a Braun — albeit a new one. But when it comes to handling, it's more the Braun of old. It's truly frisky nature and responsive reflexes outguns most of its competitors, although it comes with abundant amounts of road noise. Engine is responsive, although it takes a heavy throttle foot to overcome some initial turbo lag. Nonetheless, the transmission makes the most of the available power. Steering is rather numb, with a scintilla of road feel filtering through, and body lean is evident but not excessive. It adds up to a playful driving experience, especially when hitting the driving mode button changes, which changes the Kona's mode from normal (decaf) to sport (caffeinated).

The Kona can be fitted with forward-collision warning, automatic emergency braking, and blind-spot warning. After far too many false alarms, I turned the systems off.

Interior quality was about what you'd expect given its price. As you'd expect, the instrument panel is anchored by a 7- or 8-inch touchscreen depending on model and is framed by shortcut buttons, making the system a snap to operate.

Head and legroom are very good in the front seat, but more limited in the second row. Cargo space is adequate.

In a class known for its tight accommodations and unremarkable handling, the Kona stands out for both, not unlike its corporate sibling the Kia Soul, which is far more convincing as a modern funk wagon. Nevertheless, if you like the Kona's potent look, its handling and features won't disappoint.

Despite the quibbles, the 2019 Hyundai Kona delivers a delicious driving experience, much like a Braun coffeemaker — albeit a new one.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base prices: $21,035-$32,995
- Engine: DOHC 2.0-liter four-cylinder
- Horsepower: 147
- Torque: 132 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 25/30 mpg
- Wheelbase: 102.4 inches
- Length: 164 inches
- Cargo capacity: 19.2-45.8 cubic feet
- Ground clearance: 7 inches
- Curb weight: 3,259 pounds

TNS
The 2019 Hyundai Kona's over-caffeinated design cloaks a perfectly ingratiating subcompact crossover, says Larry Printz. Here's his look at the Kona.

UNDER THE HOOD: How a radiator expansion tank works

Q: My question is about radiator overflow tanks. I've always had cars and trucks that had an overflow tank that you would keep full to the cold or hot mark. Checking over my daughter's car, she has a tank with a screw-on cap, and I can't find any other way to check the radiator fluid at the radiator. Can you tell me why the difference and how this should be maintained?

— Jim S.

A: It sounds like your daughter's car is equipped with a radiator expansion tank rather than the overflow container you're familiar with.

Older domestic vehicles typically came equipped with a top or side tank radiator utilizing a pressure relief cap. As engine coolant heats up it expands, causing a buildup of pressure. Operating at up to 15 psi is a good thing as this raises the boiling point of water by about 3 degrees F per pound of pressure (257 vs 212 degrees F). A 50/50 mix of coolant and water raises this even further to about 265 degrees F. With the typical operating temperature range of most vehicles being about 195 to 230 degrees F, this insures the coolant remains a liquid and does the best job of transferring engine heat to the radiator. Older vehicles would discharge coolant via a tube to the pavement when excessive fluid expansion occurred — not the best thing!

Adding an overflow container to capture spillage and a combination pressure/vacuum cap was a good idea, as any lost coolant is contained and can be drawn back into the radiator as the system cools down (the vacuum valve in the cap allows this). These systems typically have a simple container cap and the overflow tube extends near the bottom of the container for draw-back.

During normal operation, the coolant level in the container varies between the cold and hot lines. If the coolant level in the container is maintained and the tube and cap do their job, one might assume the radiator is full — although I still like to check it! Should even a small leak occur, cool-down vacuum may not be sufficient to draw fluid back to keep the radiator full.

Your daughter's car uses a much sturdier pressurized expansion tank with a pressure relief cap instead of the simple overflow container. The expansion tank is located higher than the radiator and functionally becomes the top of the radiator, adding fluid capacity, with plenty of room for coolant expansion. This method allows a low hood line, as the radiator can be a bit shorter in stature and doesn't have it's own cap.

Another advantage is that by keeping the radiator completely full of fluid, fewer air bubbles occur, which improves heat transfer. An expansion tank also has cold and hot fluid lines that should be periodically checked, and one can observe true radiator fluid level without removing the pressure cap. Never remove a pressurized cap unless the system is stone cold!

My neighbor was recently told by a repair shop his BMW's expansion tank needed replacement due to losing fluid, at a cost of $400, among other service work performed. He declined the job and we looked at it together over a period of several days (a luxury most shops don't enjoy). It turned out the tank was fine! It seems the technician had overfilled the tank and it would discharge coolant from the cap when driven, which ran down and collected around the tank's top seam, causing it to appear faulty.

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

‘John Wick 3’ dethrones ‘Avengers: Endgame’ with $57 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The box office has a new king and his name is John Wick. The third installment of the hyper violent Keanu Reeves franchise has taken the top spot at the North American box office and ended the three-week reign of “Avengers: Endgame.”

Studios on Sunday say “John Wick: Chapter 3—Parabellum” has grossed an estimated $57 million in its opening weekend. Not only did it far exceed expectations, it’s a franchise best that nearly doubled the opening of the second film, which itself doubled the opening of the first film from 2014.

The audience, in other words, is growing exponentially for this series about a talented assassin who never seems to get a break. This time, there’s a $14 million price tag on his head.

Men made up the majority (63 of the “John Wick 3” opening weekend crowd. Overall audiences gave the film a rare A+ CinemaScore, indicating that word-of-mouth will be strong in subsequent weekends. According to Comscore’s PostTrak audience survey, 70% said they would “definitely recommend” to their friends and 21% said they would see it again in theaters.

“This is the best reviewed film of the series so far,” said Joe Drake, chairman of the Lionsgate Motion Picture Group, in a statement. “We believe word-of-mouth will continue to drive strong business for the film all over the world.”

AP
This image released by Lionsgate shows Keanu Reeves in a scene from “John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum.”

Internationally “John Wick 3” earned $35.2 million from 66 territories.

“Avengers: Endgame” slid to second place in its fourth weekend with $29.4 million. Domestically, where the film has grossed $711 million, it’s now second only to “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” ($937 million) and globally, with $2.6 billion, it’s still second to “Avatar” ($2.8 billion).

In its second weekend, “Pokémon Detective Pikachu” also continued to do well, placing third with $24.8 million. But with the high-performing trifecta of John Wick, the Avengers and Pikachu, there weren’t very many moviegoers left over for the less flashy newcomers like “A Dog’s Journey” and “The Sun Is Also a Star.”

“The marketplace was so dominated by ‘John Wick,’” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “It’s tough when one movie over performs by this kind of magnitude.”

Amblin Entertainment and Reliance Entertainment’s “A Dog’s Journey” opened in fourth with an underwhelming $8 million. The Universal-distributed film is a sequel to the 2017 hit “A Dog’s Purpose.” But unlike John Wick, the audience for this sequel was less than half of that for the first, which opened to $18.2 million. But audiences who did turn out gave it an A CinemaScore, which could point toward long-term playability.

Most disappointing, however, is the young adult adaptation “The Sun Is Also a Star” which grossed only $2.6 million from over 2,000 screens and landed in eighth place. Although modestly budgeted at a reported $9 million, and featuring popular television actors such as “Riverdale’s” Charles Melton and “grown-ish’s” Yara Shahidi, the Warner Bros.-released film failed to connect even with the audiences who turned out, 75% of whom were women. It got a poor B- CinemaScore.

It’s a far cry from the days of “The Fault in Our Stars’” $48 million debut in 2014, and even the last film based on a Nicola Yoon novel, “Everything, Everything,” which opened to over $11 million in 2017.

“As unpredictable and fickle as young adults are, so are the performances of films that target that audience,” Dergarabedian said.

In limited release, Joanna Hogg’s well-reviewed relationship drama “The Souvenir” did well with $85,851 from four screens.

Even with the success of “John Wick,” the weekend itself was down about 31% and the year to date is still down around 9%, but, Dergarabedian said that this is the calm before the storm. In the next few weekends theaters will see an influx of could-be hits such as “Rocketman,” ″Aladdin” and “Godzilla: King of the Monsters.”

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **“John Wick: Chapter 3—Parabellum,”** $57 million ($35.2 million international).
2. **“Avengers: Engame,”** $29.4 million ($46.8 million international).
3. **“Pokémon Detective Pikachu,”** $24.8 million ($53.8 million international).
4. **“A Dog’s Journey,”** $8 million ($13.9 million international).
5. **“The Hustle,”** $6.1 million ($9.5 million international).
6. **“The Intruder,”** $4 million.
7. **“Long Shot,”** $3.4 million ($1.8 million international).
8. **“The Sun Is Also a Star,”** $2.6 million ($484,000 international).
9. **“Poms,”** $2.1 million ($396,000 international).
10. **“Uglydolls,”** $1.6 million ($3.1 million international).

A newly restored ‘The Shining’ debuts in Cannes

CANNES, France (AP)—Thirty-nine years later, Jack is still not a dull boy.

In a new pristine restoration, Stanley Kubrick’s “The Shining” premiered at the Cannes Film Festival on Friday evening. It was the second straight year that a Kubrick movie landed on the Croisette, following last year when Christopher Nolan brought what he termed an “unrestored” cut of “2001: A Space Odyssey.”

This time around, Alfonso Cuaron introduced the film, alongside Kubrick’s daughter, Katharina Kubrick, and Leon Vitali, Kubrick’s longtime assistant. Vitali was himself profiled in the 2017 documentary “Filmworker,” also a Cannes entry.

“If anybody hasn’t seen it on the screen before, it’s a different experience completely,” Vitali told the crowd. “Don’t worry, you’ll all come out of here alive.”

Cuaron’s presence in Cannes was notable. His film “Roma” was set to premiere at the French festival last year. But when Netflix and the festival couldn’t agree on distribution terms for the streaming giant’s films, Netflix pulled out of Cannes and “Roma” headed instead to the Venice Film Festival, where it won the Golden Lion prize.

Cuaron didn’t oversee “The Shining” restoration. That role went to Steven Spielberg, whose 2018 sci-fi thriller “Ready Player One” included a lengthy homage to “The Shining.” But Cuaron lavished praise on “The Shining” while playfully prodding conspiracy theorists that dig into the film for hidden meanings.

“Actually, tonight, we’re going to watch it backwards, because backwards, we’ll see it with the message Kubrick (intended),” joked Cuaron.

The 2012 documentary “Room 237” chronicled some of those theories, including that “The Shining” is really about the moon landing or about the treatment of Native Americans. Katharina Kubrick used an expletive to describe the guessing games around “The Shining.”

“This is a seriously cool ghost movie. Don’t believe any of the conspiracy theories because it’s all s---,” she said. “I only said that because I’ve had some champagne.”

Cuaron agreed. “Kubrick would have really gotten a laugh out of all of these conspiracy theories,” said the director. “By all reports, he believed in films not to be explained but to be experienced. A little bit like music, he used to say.”

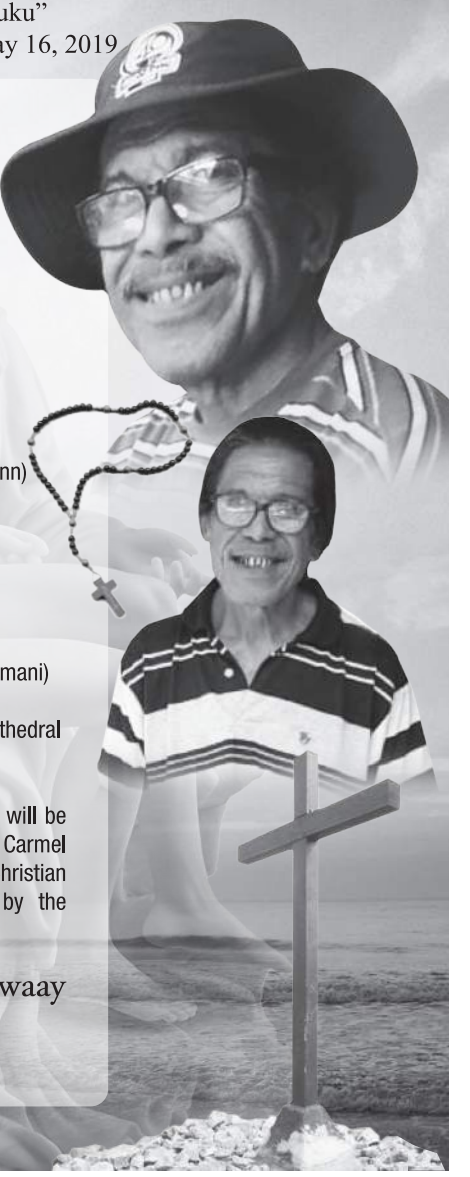
“The Shining” restoration will be released on home video Oct. 1.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Juan Nekaifes

“Johnny” “Kuku”

April 26, 1956 – May 16, 2019



In his new life, he now joins his:
Mother: †Nieves Ilo Nekaifes
Brother: †Saturnino Nekaifes

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Juanita Lisua Nekaifes
Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren:
Joannet Lisua / Domingo B Cruz
(Deone, Dalincia, Jason)
John Roman Lisua / Catherine Pangelinan
(Sasha/Vera [Jiovoni],
Dolores/Harry [Jose, Josalynn]
Florielynn, Damian, EJ, TJ, Seth, Jaelynn)
Joseph Lisua (Norman)
Jason L. Nekaifes / Anningkoyo Ruben
Jaclyn L. Nekaifes / Michael Laniyo (MJ)
Jasmine L. Nekaifes

Reared/Godson:
Mathew W. Lisua / Merlin Sachuo (Alisa, Armani)

Daily Mass of Intention is offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am and the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm.

On Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from Cabrera’s Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am, followed by the interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank You, Si Yu’us Maase, Olomwaay

The Family

AP
This photo taken Wednesday, May 1, 2019, shows a cliff at the Fjadrárgljúfur canyon in southeastern Iceland.

Blame it on Bieber: Iceland canyon too popular with visitors

FJADRÁRGLJÚFUR, Iceland (AP)—A large sign warns motorists that Iceland's Fjadrárgljúfur canyon is closed to visitors but drivers keep on coming down the narrow gravel road. A ranger at a roadblock has to explain why no one can pass: The vulnerable landscape cannot sustain more visitors.

Blame Justin Bieber, the Canadian pop star with a worldwide reach.

Bieber's magical music video "I'll Show You" was filmed at the canyon and seen by millions, creating overwhelming demand for the once-pristine spot. For a chance to follow in Bieber's footsteps, his fans are not letting a few fences, signs or park rangers keep them away.

Eager visitors try to sweet-talk ranger Hanna Jóhannsdóttir into opening the gate. Some offer bribes. They should know in advance it's not going to work.

"Food from people's home country is the most common bribery," said Jóhannsdóttir, who recently turned down a free trip to Dubai in exchange for looking the other way at trespassers.

The Bieber-inspired influx is one part of a larger challenge for Iceland—the North Atlantic island nation may be too spectacular and too popular for its own good.

Last year 2.3 million tourists visited Iceland, compared with just 600,000 eight years ago. The 20% annual uptick in visitors has been out of proportion with infrastructure that is needed to protect Iceland's volcanic landscape, where soil forms slowly and erodes quickly.

Environment Minister Gudmundur Ingi Gudbrandsson said it is "a bit too simplistic to blame the entire situation on Justin Bieber" but urged famous, influential visitors to consider the consequences of their actions.

"Rash behavior by one famous person can dramatically impact an entire area if the mass follows," he told The Associated Press.

Bieber has the third-largest Twitter account at over 105 million followers, after Katy Perry and Barack Obama, according to friendorfollow.com—and he has over 112 million followers on Instagram.

In the viral video—watched over 440 million times on YouTube since 2015—Bieber stomped on mossy vegetation, dangled his feet over a cliff and bathed in the freezing river underneath the sheer walls of the canyon.

"In Justin Bieber's defense, the canyon did not, at the time he visited, have rope fences and designated paths to show what was allowed and what not," Gudbrandsson said.

Over 1 million people have visited the area since the release of the video, the Environment Agency of Iceland estimates, leaving deep scars on its vegetation. After remaining closed for all but five weeks this year, it is expected to reopen again this summer only if weather conditions are dry.

Icelanders are reluctant to fault the pop star, who enjoys enormous support on the island. About 12% of Iceland's entire population—38,000 people—attended his two concerts in Reykjavík, the capital, a year after the video was released.

Locals underestimated the canyon's potential as a major attraction because it's relatively small compared to those formed by the country's powerful glacier rivers. But unlike others, it is easily accessed and requires less than a kilometer (0.6 mile) of trekking.

The selfies and drone images have stopped—for now—but more exposure is coming. The latest season of the popular HBO drama "Game of Thrones" features scenes filmed at the canyon. The nearby Skógar waterfall and the Svínafells glacier are also backdrops in the fictional Thrones world of warriors and dragons.

Inga Palsdottir, director of the national tourism agency Visit Iceland, said a single film shot or a viral photograph has often put overlooked places on the map.

The most extreme example, she said, is the Douglas DC-3 U.S. Navy plane that crashed on the black sand beach at Sólheimasandur in 1973. The seven Americans on board all survived but the plane wreck was never removed.

"Then someone decided to dance on it and now it's one of the most popular places in the country," said Palsdottir.

On a foggy Wednesday morning, ranger Jóhannsdóttir observed fresh footprints on the muddy pathway to the Fjadrárgljúfur canyon, indicating that someone had jumped the fence overnight.

James Gunn says he's a better person after being fired

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's been a roller-coaster year for James Gunn, who was fired from "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" over old tweets in July, and rehired this March. But the writer-director who shepherded the first two "Guardians" films to critical and box office success said the experience has been an educational one.

"I'm a better person than I was a year ago," Gunn told The Associated Press on Saturday. "It's made me more creative and focused on the things that really matter to me, which are my friends, my relationships and the movies that I'm making."

Although even after his firing, Gunn didn't exactly have a fallow period as he was hired fairly soon by Marvel's rival to work on the sequel to "Suicide Squad." Now, Gunn is fully back in the public eye promoting the horror film "Brightburn," which he produced, and resuming work on the third "Guardians" movie.

The ordeal has made him thankful for his friends who have supported him throughout. Actress Elizabeth Banks, who stars in "Brightburn," is one of those in the circle of people he can go to.

Gunn

"There's a lot of things that people talk about Hollywood-cutthroat this and Hollywood-bad that and all the things that are terrible about Hollywood. But the truth is ... I have one really good gift ... I'm attracted to really good people and I have chosen to put wonderful people around me, whether it's the actors I work with, the crew members I work with, my, you know, the writers I would deal with, the studio people I deal with," Gunn said. "There's a lot of really good people in this industry."

The 52-year-old found himself under intense scrutiny last year when tweets from nearly a decade ago in which he joked about subjects such as pedophilia and rape resurfaced because of far-right propagandists Mike Cernovich and Jack Posobiec after Gunn was critical of President Donald Trump. Gunn apologized for his tweets, but Walt Disney Co. chairman Alan Horn said that they were inconsistent with the studio's values.

Both fans and his cast including Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper, Zoe Saldana, Vin Diesel and other stars rallied behind him in the wake of the firing last July.

"Although I don't support James Gunn's inappropriate jokes from years ago, he is a good man," Pratt said.

Oprah speaks at college graduation

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Oprah Winfrey tells college graduates in Colorado small steps lead to big accomplishments.

Winfrey gave the commencement speech Sunday at Colorado College. The small liberal arts college in Colorado Springs awarded 590 undergraduate degrees.

Winfrey quoted black activist Angela Davis, who said: "You have to act as if it were possible to radically change the world. And you have to do it all the time."

Winfrey says change doesn't happen with big breakthroughs so much as day-to-day decisions.

The television personality and philanthropist once gave away a car to everybody in the audience on her show. Winfrey didn't give the college graduates cars but copies of her book, "The Path Made Clear."

She told them to expect failure in life but know that everything will be OK.

Scarlett Johansson and Colin Jost are engaged

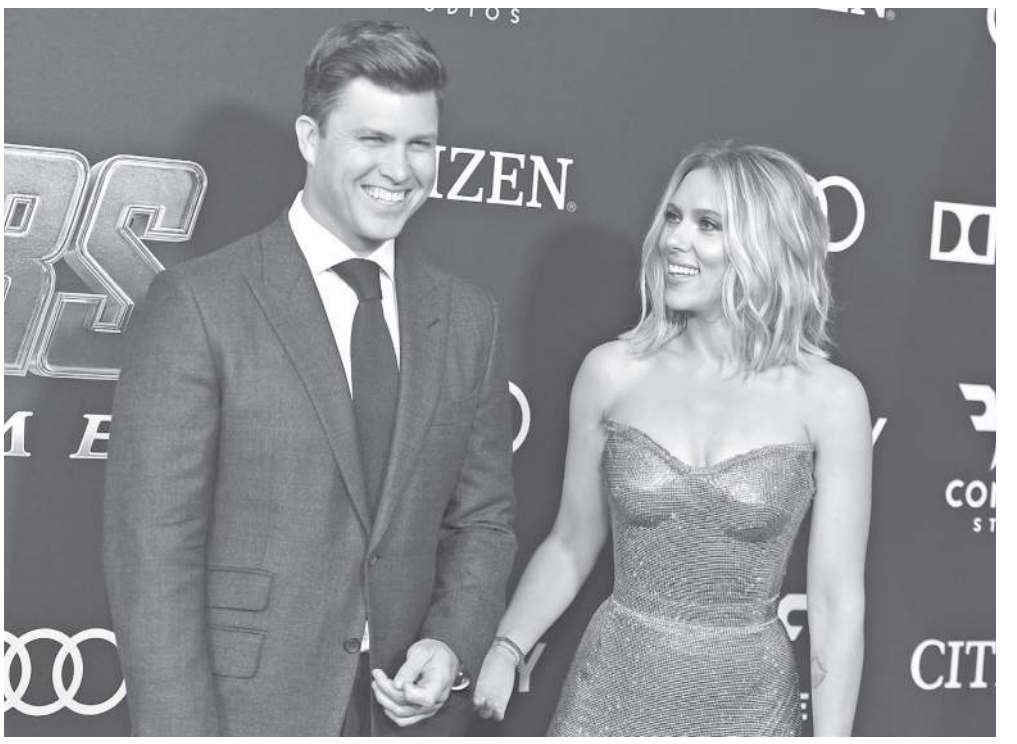
Wedding bells are in the future for actress Scarlett Johansson and Colin Jost of "Saturday Night Live."

Johansson's publicist Marcel Pariseau tells The Associated Press Sunday that the private couple is officially engaged after two years of dating. Pariseau says no date has been set for the nuptials.

Johansson, 34, was previously married to actor Ryan Reynolds and journalist Romain Dauriac, with whom she has a daughter named Rose who was born in 2014.

This is the first marriage for the 36-year-old Jost, who is the co-anchor of SNL's Weekend Update.

The couple recently walked the red carpet together at the premiere of "Avengers: Endgame," in which Johansson plays the character of Black Widow. ***(AP)***



AP

In this April 22, 2019, file photo, Colin Jost, left, and Scarlett Johansson arrive at the premiere of "Avengers: Endgame" at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Netflix announces fashion design competition series

NEW YORK (AP) — It's been a minute since a new fashion design competition has occurred. Enter: "Next in Fashion," soon to come on Netflix.

The series is hosted by the first "Queer Eye" star to spin off, Tan France, along with fashion maven Alexa Chung. The show features 18 designers competing for $250,000 and the chance to sell their wares on Net-a-Porter.

No release date was announced. Netflix said in a statement Friday the competition is focused on trends and styles that have "influenced the way the entire world dresses."

Among the judges are celebrity stylist Elizabeth Stewart and Eva Chen, Instagram's director of fashion partnerships. The show comes after a 17th-season makeover for "Project Runway" on Bravo starring Christian Siriano as mentor, Karlie Kloss as host and Brandon Maxwell among the judges.

Asian Americans push for Smithsonian gallery of their own

By JANIE HAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Smithsonian's initiative on documenting Asians in America started humbly enough two decades ago, with a borrowed exhibit in a borrowed museum wing and a tiny staff.

There was a National Museum of the American Indian attached to the Smithsonian, and progress was being made toward a museum on the National Mall celebrating African Americans' history. But Asian Americans in the 1990s remained a largely invisible population, with few people represented in entertainment, politics, sports or business.

Those years were tough, said Franklin Odo, director at the time of the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American program.

"Whenever we needed to do a public lecture or exhibit, I had to go beg one of these other institutions to lend a space," Odo said. "We had to really convince our colleagues that this was a field, this was a demographic ... that needed to be recognized and needed to be held with some respect."

On Saturday, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center launches a $25 million fundraising drive for permanent gallery space on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., with a glitzy party in Los Angeles full of celebrities and politicians. Several actors from the hit film "Crazy Rich Asians" are expected to attend, along with Rep. Judy Chu and Rep. Doris Matsui, both Democrats representing California.

If successful, an Asian American gallery could join museums and galleries dedicated to other historically underrepresented groups that have staked out space in a national park that is quintessentially American. Millions of people visit the National Mall every year to tour the White House, Lincoln Memorial and the treasures of the Smithsonian.

"The ability to have that visibility and recognition is so important," said Lisa Sasaki, the center's director. Despite temporary exhibits along the mall, she said, "there has never been a dedicated space where the public could consistently visit and find out about the history and culture of Asian Americans."

Asian Americans are the nation's fastest-growing minority and number about 20 million, or roughly 6% of the population. They come from more than 20 countries, with the largest populations from China, India, Vietnam, Philippines, Korea and Japan. They range from recent immigrants to descendants of laborers who migrated in the 19th century to build the Transcontinental Railroad and work sugar cane fields in Hawaii.

Museum presence is huge, says Laura Lott, president and CEO of the American Alliance of Museums.

"Museums preserve what's important to society. They tell our stories, give historical context to contemporary issues and help us imagine a better future," she said.

Odo, the former director, said he had one part-time staffer and no exhibits of his own when the program began in 1997, so he borrowed one from a Los Angeles museum for the program's first installation, about the evolution of field lunches of Japanese immigrants in Hawaii.

He says the Asian American community has evolved enough as an identity to support a permanent gallery dedicated to their shared experience in America.

"I don't know that we have an Oprah," Odo said, referring to Oprah Winfrey's charitable foundation, which donated $21 million for the National Museum of African American History and Culture. But "we have lots of people with immense means, so there's no question in my mind we can do it."

It's too early to say how large a gallery would be or when it might be secured, but Sasaki says they are looking at several locations along the mall. The 4,500-square-foot (418-square-meter) Molina Family Latino Gallery is scheduled to open in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in 2021.

Sasaki says $25 million is a fundraising goal for phase one of the project. Congressional approval is not required for a gallery within existing space, unlike the stand-alone 400,000-square-foot (37,160-square-meter) National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened in 2016 .

The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center is conscious of showing not just how Asians came to America, but how they have shaped American history. An example is a pin marking a successful 1960s grape boycott led by Mexican American and Filipino American laborers, who chose to band together.

"It tells a richer story about California history," said Theodore Gonzalves, a Smithsonian curator.

At Saturday's party, the iconic blue dress worn by Constance Wu's character in "Crazy Rich Asians" will be presented as a donation from Marchesa to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. The 2018 Hollywood film was the first in 25 years to feature an all Asian and Asian American cast.

Man plans to bequest money to the soulmate he deserted

DEAR ABBY: Many years ago, I had a romance with a young girl in a faraway town. After a year, thinking I could do better, I moved on. With the benefit of hindsight, I now realize she stood head and shoulders above all the others, and I had tragically discarded my soul mate.

By chance, I ended up settling in the same city as she. She eventually married and raised a family. Now and then we would run into each other, exchange a few friendly words and a quick hug, then move on. On one of those occasions, she was accompanied by her husband and introduced me as a "friend" from back in our younger days. Although he was cordial, I could see in his expression that he wondered if perhaps there wasn't more to the story than that.

In the course of getting my papers and estate arranged, it is clear I have done fairly well in terms of money. I divorced years ago and have no children. I am leaving money to a relative or two, some assorted charities and, for two reasons, I have decided to leave a reasonably large sum to my soul mate. For one, she was, and is, perhaps the finest person I have ever known. Second, it is obvious to me that they can use the money.

But what happens when this windfall drops out of the sky into their laps? I have no wish to cause problems in their apparently happy marriage in any way, but I cannot help but think that despite my good intentions it might cause a disturbance in their relationship. Am I doing the right thing, and is there a better way to do it?

"JOHN BERESFORD TIPTON JR."

DEAR "MR. TIPTON": Your letter brings to mind a television series from years ago called "The Millionaire." Each week the representative of an eccentric multimillionaire, John Beresford Tipton Jr., would hand some deserving person a check for $1 million in the hope that it would improve the person's life.

Ask your financial adviser or the person who will administer your estate how to discreetly pull off an anonymous bequest, and I'm sure the person can make it happen.

DEAR ABBY: For a year and a half, my wife and I have been looking forward to attending our granddaughter's college graduation. (She will be graduating on June 1.) When I called my son to discuss hotel and other arrangements, he told me my granddaughter initially was allowed only three tickets, but managed to get two more tickets from students whose relatives could not attend. He then informed me that he, his ex-wife, his son, his ex-wife's sister and the sister's live-in boyfriend will be using the tickets.

I feel very hurt that the ex's sister and boyfriend got tickets instead of me and my wife. We had planned to give my granddaughter $500 for graduation. After this slap in the face, should we give her the $500, which we have given to all our other grandchildren upon their graduation?

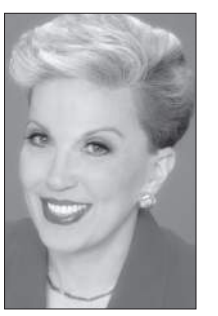
LEFT OUT IN FLORIDA

DEAR LEFT OUT: Yes, you should. Although you are right to feel hurt and offended, the blame should rest with your son and not your granddaughter, and she should not be penalized for it.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

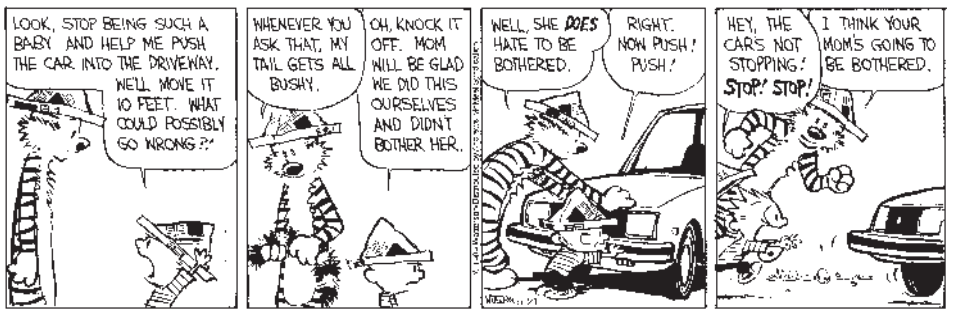


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, STOP BEING SUCH A BABY AND HELP ME PUSH THE CAR INTO THE DRIVEWAY.
WE'LL MOVE IT 10 FEET. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?!
WHENEVER YOU ASK THAT, MY TAIL GETS ALL BUSHY.
OH, KNOCK IT OFF. MOM WILL BE GLAD WE DID THIS OURSELVES AND DIDN'T BOTHER HER.
WELL, SHE DOES HATE TO BE BOTHERED.
RIGHT. NOW PUSH! PUSH!
HEY, THE CAR'S NOT STOPPING! STOP! STOP!
I THINK YOUR MOM'S GOING TO BE BOTHERED.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU KNOW, GARFIELD, I'M A PRETTY LUCKY GUY. LUCKY, LUCKY, LUCKY. I HAVE MY HEALTH, A LOVING FAMILY, A GOOD HOME...
A DECENT CAR, IMPRESSIVE SOCK COLLECTION, A WONDERFUL GIRLFRIEND, NIFTY CELL PHONE, YEP...
I PRETTY MUCH HAVE EVERYTHING
EXCEPT A MUTE BUTTON

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS CLIENT WANTS TO MEET AT SIX O'CLOCK TOMORROW MORNING!
WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL IS AWAKE AND FUNCTIONING AT SIX A.M.??
WELL, PEOPLE WHO AREN'T SELF-EMPLOYED, I GUESS. BUT, YOU...
IS THERE SUN AT THAT TIME? IS THERE OXYGEN??
DEEP BREATHS, HON. FIND YOUR HAPPY PLACE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN I GET THIS SHAMPOO?
OH, YEAH – I'VE SEEN THEIR COMMERCIALS. THEY SAY IT'S THE CHOICE OF DOGS, CATS, AND GUINEA PIGS.
YEAH, AND NOT TESTED ON ANIMALS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

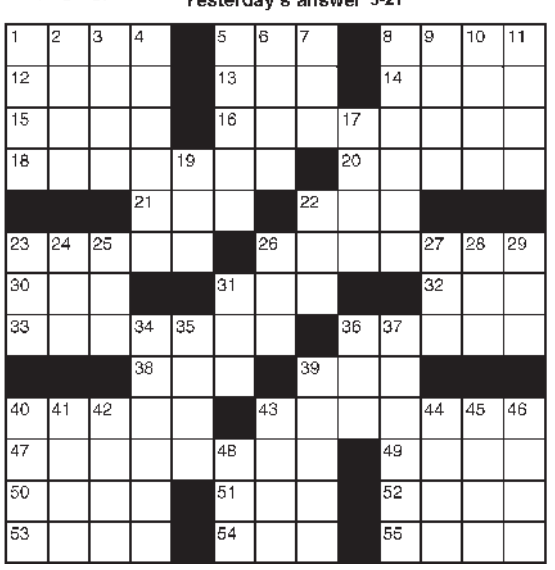
ACROSS
1 Burden
5 "Terrif!"
8 Confront
12 Guesser's words
13 Rushmore face
14 Big-screen format
15 Banner
16 Actuality
18 Prepare for printing
20 Staffers
21 Small batteries
22 "Today" rival, briefly
23 Bizarre
26 "The West Wing" actor
30 Altar constellation
31 Group of whales
32 Pledge
33 Was behind schedule
36 "Thank Me Later" rapper
38 — tear (raging)
39 Sticky stuff
40 Cock-eyed
43 Worldly
47 Stop signal
49 Small iPod
50 Story
51 Calendar abbr.
52 Flint-stones' pet
53 Scratched (out)
54 Earth (Pref.)
55 RBI, for one

DOWN
1 Barn storage area
2 Paris airport
3 Now, on a memo
4 Ersatz bookmark
5 Taxi costs
6 Help a crook
7 Arthur of "Maude"
8 Re offspring
9 During
10 Sidewalk eatery
11 Former mates
17 Mary's follower
19 Melan-choly
22 Deity
23 Series of battles
24 Historic period
25 007 creator Fleming
26 Caviar base
27 Lab eggs
28 Stir-fry pan
29 Lamb's dam
31 School support org.
34 Did nothing
35 Con
36 Medico
37 Bout segments
39 Very beginning
40 Jocular Johnson
41 Ship wood
42 Between jobs
43 Actress Elisabeth
44 Cannes milk
45 "Downton Abbey" role
46 Cheer (for)
48 Joke

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	L	I	P		W	E	B		S	H	E	P
L	A	T	H		A	V	A		T	Y	R	A
C	R	E	O		G	A	L	G	A	D	O	T
G	A	M	E	T	E		M	E	T	R	O	S
			3	U	P	Y		-	E	O		
G	A	M	E	T	I	M	E		S	G	T	S
C	R	A		U	N	C	A	P		C	A	T
E	C	R	U		G	A	R	-	A	N	D	S
		T	S	E		S	L	E	D			
T	R	I	A	D	S		G	A	D	G	E	T
G	A	N	G	S	T	F	R		F	A	V	F
I	S	F	F		U	N	F		R	Y	A	N
F	A	T	S		R	A	Y		S	F	N	D

Yesterday's answer 5-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

ELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fairuza Balk, 45; Lisa Edelstein, 53; Nick Cassavetes, 60; Judge Reinhold, 62.

Happy Birthday: This is a year of opportunity. It's a time to explore new possibilities and to start building for the future. What you develop and put in place will be the foundation for your success. Don't waste time procrastinating. Get the ball rolling, do your research and put all the pieces you need to excel in place. New beginnings will lead to rewards. Your numbers are 3, 16, 21, 29, 31, 35, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You may feel the urge to make a physical or personal change, but before you do, look for the best route to take. If you let your emotions overrule common sense, you will end up backtracking. Slow down and be methodical. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A reimbursement or settlement looks promising. Plan to make a personal change that will lift your spirits. An old idea can now be brought to life. Love is on the rise, and a chance to improve an important relationship is within reach. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Size up whatever situation you face, and consider where the information you receive is coming from. Refuse to let someone lead you astray by using charm or persuasive tactics. Be smart, and know when to say no. Trust and believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use your energy wisely. Much can be completed if you stay focused on what you want to accomplish. A good plan and creative vision are needed for you to make progress. Partnerships are encouraged, and personal change looks promising. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Relax and take a moment to think. Time is on your side, so don't let anyone push you to make a move or a decision before you are ready. Look for alternative opportunities that fit the lifestyle you want to live. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Pay attention to detail, especially when it comes to how you put yourself together. You don't want to give anyone a false impression; what you see should be what you get. Let your confidence shine through and your presence make an impact. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look at what's available to you. Observe and learn all you can before you decide to take on someone who is difficult to deal with. An argument will be a waste of time. Knowledge and preparation should be priorities. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Make contact with someone you haven't seen for a long time. The memories will stir up forgotten dreams, prompting you to rethink how you want to move forward. Partnerships are favored, and financial gain is within reach. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't press forward if something doesn't feel right. Listen carefully, and you'll realize someone is not being honest with you. Don't make a fuss. Remove yourself from any situation or deal that is excessive or risky. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* It's your turn to make a move. Proceed with confidence, and don't leave anything to chance. A change in the way someone treats you will give you an opportunity to discover how you feel about spending more time with him or her. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You may not like what others are doing or saying, but if you concentrate on taking care of your responsibilities and mind your own business, you will be able to sidestep trouble. Work alone to avoid conflict. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep emotions under control. Handle your money and personal affairs strategically. If you let someone else meddle in your business, it will end up costing you. Make physical changes to your home. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, creative and changeable. You are dynamic and persuasive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1			5			8
8		2			3	
4			3			6
6	3	9				
1					6	
		5		4		2
5		9				3
	6		1		2	
9		7				4

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	9	3	5	7	8	6	4	2
6	2	5	9	4	1	7	8	3
4	7	8	3	2	6	1	5	9
7	8	4	2	1	5	9	3	6
5	3	6	7	9	4	8	2	1
9	1	2	8	6	3	5	7	4
8	5	9	1	3	2	4	6	7
3	4	1	6	8	7	2	9	5
2	6	7	4	5	9	3	1	8

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ICE CORE SAMPLES — Solution: 7 letters

R	E	T	A	W	E	T	L	A	N	D	R	A	T	E
N	B	N	A	T	U	R	A	L	H	N	O	N	O	P
O	U	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	O	O
I	B	I	D	I	S	H	E	E	T	Z	A	A	L	T
T	B	C	S	I	T	S	O	R	F	O	C	R	L	O
A	L	N	T	R	X	T	O	O	S	R	L	C	A	S
C	E	A	A	V	D	O	H	O	R	F	O	T	F	I
O	S	E	Y	O	A	N	I	G	S	H	V	I	W	R
L	S	T	C	L	S	T	A	D	I	L	S	C	O	E
A	E	A	A	U	N	S	A	L	N	L	I	A	N	D
T	R	M	R	M	O	A	A	D	N	O	N	C	S	N
S	P	I	U	E	I	P	U	Y	R	E	B	U	E	I
Y	M	L	C	I	N	A	G	R	O	I	E	R	S	L
R	O	C	©	Ⓤ	Ⓣ	D	E	P	T	H	L	R	A	Y
C	C	V	A	P	O	R	R	E	I	C	A	L	G	C

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Accuracy, Ancient, Antarctica, Ash, Auger, Bubbles, Carbon Dioxide, Climate, Compress, Crystal, Cut, Cylinder, Data, Depth, Drill, Earth, Environment, Frost, Frozen, Glacier, Greenland, Ions, Isotope, Location, Natural, Organic, Past, Rate, Sheet, Slice, Snowfall, Soot, Sunlight, Tool, Vapor, Volcano, Volume, Water, Wetland

Yesterday's Answer: Running

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

GUANG DONG ZHOU JING FU HOTEL CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that GUANG DONG ZHOU JING FU HOTEL CORPORATION, a corporation established in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was dissolved effected May 21, 2019. Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claims against the corporation are hereby notified to present their claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below:laim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below:

GUANG DONG ZHOU JING FU HOTEL CORPORATION
PMB 816 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950
All claims not filed within the time required
by law will forever be barred.

/s/ Cui Ziwen
President

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

GUANG DONG TIANBAI FURNITURE LTD. CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that GUANG DONG TIANBAI FURNITURE LTD. CORPORATION, a corporation established in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was dissolved effected May 21, 2019. Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claims against the corporation are hereby notified to present their claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below:

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/s/ Hongying Zhao
President

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Defines application problem by conferring with clients; evaluating procedures and processes.
Develops solution by preparing and evaluating alternative workflow solutions.
Controls solution by establishing specifications; coordinating production with programmers.
Validates results by testing programs.
Ensures operation by training client personnel; providing support.
Provides reference by writing documentation.
Updates job knowledge by participating in educational opportunities; reading professional publications; maintaining personal networks; participating in professional organizations.

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Required number of years (Working Experience): At least a minimum of 2 years working experience as a Computer Systems Analyst
Special Requirements: Knowledgeable in Software Design, Software Documentation, Software Testing, Software Maintenance, Software Development Process, Software Requirements, Teamwork, General Consulting Skills, Software Architecture

Interested applicants may apply in person at the office of: **TRUE BLUE BUSINESS SERVICES**
Unit 104 of Marianas Business Plaza Building, Nauru Loop, Susupe, Saipan. Please look for Ms. Hazel dela Santa

Phone calls and email inquiries are not accepted

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/s/ Cui Ziwen
President

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Friday, May 24, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

REVISED AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes
1. January 31, 2019 Continued Special Board Meeting
2. March 1, 2019 Special Board Meeting
E. Correspondence

II. Public Comments**

III. Management Reports
A. Executive Director's Report
B. Chief Financial Officer's Report

IV. Old Business
A. Emergency Procurement of Engine and Alternative Power Supply for Rota
B. Job Vacancy Announcement – Legal Counsel
C. Status of Outstanding Utility Billings
1. Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
2. Commonwealth Ports Authority
D. Telesource Contract
E. Amendment to Human Resources Classification System

V. New Business
A. Committee Meetings Rules and Procedures
B. Personnel Committee Report
C. Executive Session*

IX. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments

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WHATZIT Solution: Two-time loser

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Nadal beats Djokovic for record 9th title

ROME (AP) — Rafael Nadal is right back where he wants to be.

After losing in the semifinals of three straight clay-court tournaments, Nadal dominated for stretches against his longtime rival, Novak Djokovic, in a 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 win Sunday for a record-extending ninth Italian Open title.

"You were asking for titles. Finally I have a title," Nadal told reporters. "Here we are. Important title, important moment."

It marked the first time in an Open Era-record 54 meetings, and in their 142nd set against each other, that Nadal won a set against Djokovic without conceding a game —otherwise known as a bagel.

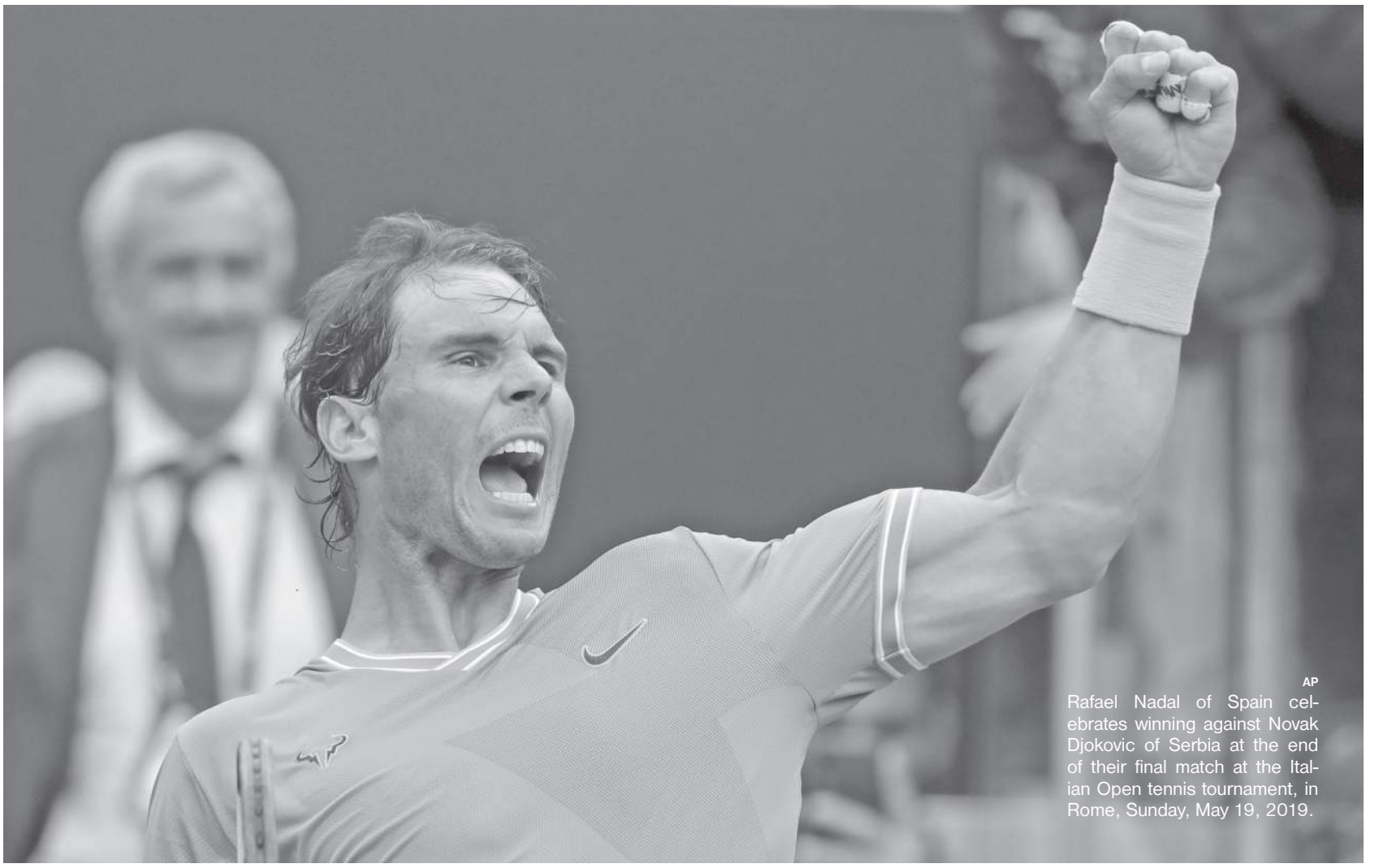
In all, Nadal had a career-high four bagel sets in this tournament.

"I played a great first set in all aspects. No mistakes. Playing so aggressive, changing directions," Nadal said. "It's not usual and probably will not happen again."

The timing for Nadal's return to form could not have been more opportune, as he will seek a record-extending 12th title at the French Open starting next weekend.

"Winning a title is important but for me the most important thing is (to) feel myself competitive, feel myself healthy," Nadal said. "Then with the feeling that I am improving. I know if I'm able to reach my level you can win, you can lose, but normally I'm going to have my chances—especially on this surface.

"Now is the moment to keep going," Nadal added.



AP

Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates winning against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the end of their final match at the Italian Open tennis tournament, in Rome, Sunday, May 19, 2019.

In the women's final, Karolina Pliskova captured the biggest clay-court trophy of her career by beating Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-4.

Top-ranked Djokovic, meanwhile, appeared exhausted after spending more than 5 ½ hours on court against Juan Martin del Potro and Diego Schwartzman the previous two days.

Djokovic was also coming off the Madrid Open title last week.

"I don't want to talk about fatigue or things like that," Djokovic told the crowd during the post-match ceremony. "Rafa was simply too strong today."

Speaking to reporters later, Djokovic said, "I was just running out of fuel a little bit today. Just kind of missed that half a step, especially on the backhand side."

The Foro Italico crowd continually tried to encourage Djokovic with chants of "Vai Nole!"—Go Nole!—but the top-ranked Serb struggled with his overhead and drop shots.

Midway through the second set, Nadal chased down a lob with an over-the-shoulder shot and Djokovic's ensuing overhead landed in the net to conclude a long point.

Djokovic again netted an overhead in the next game and then kicked the ball in frustration when he missed a drop shot attempt late in the second.

But Djokovic hung around in the second and converted his first set point when a looping forehand from Nadal sailed wide for his first break of the match. As he walked to his chair after winning the second set, Djokovic waved his arms to get the crowd behind him.

However, Djokovic didn't have much left in the tank.

When Nadal pushed Djokovic deep into the corner in the opening game of the third set and Djokovic's desperation lob sailed long to hand Nadal a break, Djokovic smashed his racket to the clay three times in frustration and received a warning from the chair umpire.

Djokovic won only 29 percent of the points on his second serve and committed 39 unforced errors to Nadal's 17. Also, Nadal won 23 of the 31 rallies with nine or more shots.

Koepka prevails at Bethpage to win PGA Championship

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)— Brooks Koepka took his place in PGA Championship history with a wire-to-wire victory, minus the style points.

In a raging wind that turned Bethpage Black into a beast, Koepka lost all but one shot of his record seven-shot lead Sunday. He lost the brutal Long Island crowd, which began chanting "DJ!" for Dustin Johnson as Koepka was on his way to a fourth straight bogey.

But he delivered the key shots over the closing stretch as Johnson faded with two straight bogeys, and Koepka closed with a 4-over 74 for a two-shot victory and joined Tiger Woods as the only back-to-back winners of the PGA Championship since it went to stroke play in 1958.

Koepka said at the start of the week that majors are sometimes the easiest to win.

This one should have been. It wasn't.

His 74 was the highest final round by a PGA champion since Vijay Singh won in a playoff in 2004 at Whistling Straits.

"I'm just glad I don't have to play any more holes," Koepka said. "That was a stressful round of golf. I'm glad to have this thing back in my hands."

Koepka appeared to wrap it up with a gap wedge from 156 yards to 2 feet on the 10th hole for a birdie, as Johnson made his first bogey of the round up ahead on the 11th. That restored the lead to six shots, and the coronation was on.

And then it all changed in a New York minute.

Koepka missed three straight fairways and made three straight bogeys, having to make a 6-foot putt on No. 11 to keep it from being worse. The wind was so fickle that it died as he hit 7-iron to the par-3 14th that sailed over the green, leading to a fourth straight bogey.

The crowd sensed a collapse, and began chanting, "DJ! DJ! DJ!" as Koepka was playing the hole. Ahead of him, Johnson made birdie on the 15th—the toughest hole at Bethpage Black all week—and the lead was down to one.

That was as close as Johnson got.

His 5-iron pierced through a wind that gusted close to 25 mph, over the green and into a buried lie. He missed the 7-foot par putt, went long of the green on the par-3 17th for another bogey and had to settle for 69.

"Hit the shot I wanted to right at the flag," Johnson said of his 5-iron from 194 yards on the 16th. "I don't know how it flew 200 yards into the wind like that.

Johnson now has runner-up finishes in all four of the majors, the wrong kind of career Grand Slam.

"I gave it a run," he said. "That's all you can ask for."

Koepka returned to No. 1 in the world with a performance that defines his dominance in golf's biggest events.

He becomes the first player to hold back-to-back titles in two majors at the same time, having won a second straight U.S. Open last summer 60 miles down the road at Shinnecock Hills. He was the first wire-to-wire winner in the PGA Championship since Hal Sutton at Riviera in 1983.

And what stakes his claim as one of the best in his generation was a third straight year winning a major. He joins a most elite group—only Woods, Phil Mickelson, Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer have done that since the Masters began in 1934.

He now has four majors in his last eight, a streak not seen since Woods won seven out of 11 when he captured the 2002 U.S. Open at Bethpage Black.

Next up is the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, where Koepka defends his title for the third time. No one has won the U.S. Open three straight years since Willie Anderson in 1905. No one will doubt whether Koepka is capable the way he is playing.

The 29-year-old Floridian is an imposing figure, a power off the tee and out of the rough with no obvious weakness in his game and the kind of mental fortitude that majors require. He needed all of it over the final hour of this one.

Koepka doesn't know his resting heart rate, and he said on the eve of the final round that it probably was not much different on the first tee of a major than when he was chilling on his couch. But he could feel this one getting away from him. He could sense Johnson making a charge. He could hear it.

"How could you not with the 'DJ' chants," Koepka said. "I heard everything."

Bethpage has a reputation for being over the top, and it irritated Harold Varner III, who shot 81 playing in the final group.

"I thought it was pretty weird how they were telling Brooks to choke," Varner said about the 14th hole. "That's not my cup of tea. I was pulling for him after that."

Koepka held it together at the most crucial moment. He piped his driver down the 15th fairway and two-putted for par. And he drilled another one into the 16th, which played the most difficult in the final round because it was into the wind.

Johnson hit 5-iron just over the green. The wind died enough 20 minutes later that Koepka hit 7-iron only to 50 feet and had another good lag putt to get par.

He kept it interesting to the end, three-putting the 17th as the lead went back to two shots, and pulling his driver on the 18th into fescue so thick it left him little choice but to lay up and scramble for par. Once his medium lob wedge settled 6 feet away, he could relax.

Finally.

Woods won the Wanamaker Trophy in consecutive years twice, in 1999 and 2000, and again in 2006 and 2007. Koepka was starting to draw comparisons with Woods for the way he obliterated the competition, much like Woods in his 12-shot victory in the 1997 Masters and 15-shot victory in the 2000 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

Raptors survive Game 3, top Bucks in 2OT

TORONTO (AP)—Pascal Siakam felt guilty about a pair of missed free throws and the extra minutes they added to his teammates' night.

Fortunately for Siakam and the rest of the Raptors, Kawhi Leonard didn't seem to feel any fatigue.

Leonard scored 36 points, including eight in the second overtime, and Toronto beat Milwaukee 118-112 on Sunday night to cut the Bucks' lead in the Eastern Conference finals to 2-1.

Leonard made 11 of 25 shots and went 12 for 13 at the free throw line in more than 52 minutes of action, a playoff career high.

"At the end of the game, Kawhi said he played an hour of basketball," Siakam said. "I told him 'My bad.'"

Leonard had nine rebounds and five assists despite appearing to be bothered by some leg discomfort. He said he would keep fighting and playing.

"I mean, it's 52 minutes and it's in the playoffs, so you definitely feel it. When you play 30 minutes, you feel it still," Leonard said. "Just got to not worry about it, get my treatment and move on to the next one."

Leonard's previous career high in playoff minutes was 46, set with San Antonio against Miami in Game 6 of the NBA Finals on June 18, 2013. The Spurs lost that game in overtime, then lost Game 7 two days later.

Siakam had 25 points and 11 rebounds, Norman Powell scored 19 points before fouling out, and Marc Gasol had 16 points and 12 rebounds. The Raptors will try to draw even when they host Game 4 on Tuesday night.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 12 points and 23 rebounds before fouling out with 4:24 to go in the second overtime. Antetokounmpo shot 5 for 16.

"They were just playing better than us," Antetokounmpo said. "Whenever we got close, they'd hit some shots and take the lead back to seven or eight. At the end of the day, it wasn't our best game. We can get a lot better."

Toronto won despite guards Kyle Lowry and Powell both fouling out in the fourth quarter. Siakam also missed a pair of free throws with 7.4 seconds left in regulation that could have iced the game for the Raptors.

"It's tough," Siakam said. "Those are shots that you practice and think about every day."

Toronto Raptors forward Norman Powell (24) scores past Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) and guard Pat Connaughton (24) during the first half of the NBA Eastern Conference finals basketball action in Toronto on Sunday, May 19, 2019. AP

Siakam redeemed himself by blocking a potential tying shot by Brook Lopez with 43 seconds to go in the second overtime, leading to a layup for Leonard that put Toronto up 114-110 with just over 30 seconds to play.

George Hill scored 24 points and Malcolm Brogdon had 20 for the Bucks, who lost for the first time in five road games this postseason. Milwaukee is 10-2 overall in the playoffs.

"We were right on the cusp of winning a game when we didn't play that well," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said.

The Raptors led 103-99 with 1:26 to go in the first overtime but Hill tied it at 103 by making a pair of free throws with 14 seconds left. Toronto used its final timeout to draw up a play for Leonard, who let the clock run down to 3 seconds before driving for a jumper that missed, sending it to a second extra period.

Hill's tiebreaking basket to begin the second overtime put Milwaukee up 105-103, its first lead since the opening basket of the game.

Gasol answered with a 3 and Leonard finished a fast break with a left-handed dunk, putting Toronto up 108-105 with 3:13 left.

Khris Middleton shot 3 for 16, but one of his baskets tied the score with 2.2 seconds to go in regulation. He finished with nine points.

After suggesting Saturday that he might change his lineup, Raptors coach Nick Nurse stuck with his normal starters, but gave Powell 30 minutes, the most he's played in any game this postseason.

"We just played a lot tougher, man," Nurse said. "We were up guarding and we were physical and we were ready to play tonight."

Toronto fell behind 9-0 early in a blowout loss in Game 2, but turned that around in Game 3. After Antetokounmpo made a layup for the opening basket of the game, Siakam replied with a hook shot, Gasol followed with a 3 and the Raptors didn't trail again in regulation.

Powell scored 10 points on five shots in the first, including a pair of 3-pointers, and Toronto led 30-21. Gasol, who had eight points in Games 1 and 2 combined, also made two from long range and scored eight in the first.

"After a tough Game 2 personally, you want to come out and get rid of the bad taste," Gasol said.

Gasol played with five fouls for part of the fourth quarter and the entire overtime.

"He's a big reason why they were able to win," Budenholzer said.

Leonard scored 11 points in the second and Lowry added eight, but Pat Connaughton made two of Milwaukee's five 3-pointers as the Bucks closed the gap. The Raptors led 58-51 at halftime.

Toronto took a narrow 77-75 lead into the fourth.

Green shows a more mature side for Warriors

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Draymond Green would rather do more playing than complaining these days.

Known at times for his temper and tangles with officials, a more mature Green has the Golden State Warriors on the brink of a fifth straight trip to the NBA Finals.

"I realized I got to a point where I was doing more crying than playing," he said. "I'm sure it was disgusting to watch because I felt disgusting playing that way, and I just wanted to lock back in on the game."

Green led the way as the Warriors rallied from an 18-point deficit to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 110-99 on Saturday night to take a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals. Golden State can finish out the series Monday at the Moda Center.

Green had 20 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for his seventh playoff triple-double overall, and third of this postseason. All three have come on the road.

He also was instrumental in Golden State's 114-111 comeback victory in Game 2. He made a bounce pass through the paint to a cutting Andre Iguodala for a dunk with 3:06 left to make it 108-105, and then assisted on a layup by Kevon Looney the next possession.

He finished with 16 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists and five blocked shots. He has collected 10 or more rebounds in eight straight playoff games.

Green said he has mellowed, and credited his family—including 2-year-old Draymond Green Jr.—for his newfound awareness.

"I understand that officials aren't perfect and I still have conversations with them now, when they miss a call, but it's a completely different conversation," he said. "My mom has been really big. My fiancée has been really big with just talking to me about that and just telling me to stay locked in on the game. I also have some little ones at the house who enjoying watching me play. I don't necessarily want them to see that. So just try to be more mindful of it."

Green was famously suspended for Game 5 of the 2016 NBA Finals against the Cleveland Cavaliers after collecting four flagrant foul points in the postseason.

Coach Steve Kerr said Green's improved focus has been a big key for the Warriors.

"I mean, I think that's been really obvious over the last couple of weeks, and I think it's important because, when he gets upset and emotional, it costs us," Kerr said. "We lose our focus as a team. I mean, he's our leader."

Green was much more than a triple-double Saturday night. He pushed the pace and steadied Golden State as it overcame a double-digit deficit against the Blazers for a second straight game.

"Once he gets the ball in his hands, he's doing everything you'd want that guy in the middle to do," Portland's Damian Lillard said.

The Trail Blazers are going to need more from Lillard to get back in the series, and the star guard is playing though a rib injury. He had 19 points in Saturday's loss, well off the 33 he averaged in Portland's first-round series against the Thunder. He has been double-teamed often with the Warriors keying in on him.

No team has ever come back to win after going down 3-0 in the playoffs.

The Warriors were dealing with injuries of their own. Iguodala is listed as questionable for Monday's game with an injured lower leg but the team reported that his MRI Sunday was clear.

Golden State was already without Kevin Durant because of a sore right calf. It's unlikely that the two-time NBA Finals MVP will return during the series against the Blazers.

Green said it's important that he take on a more effective leadership role in the absence of Durant, who is averaging more than 34 points during the playoffs. The Warriors were also without DeMarcus Cousins, who tore a quadriceps muscle at the start of the playoffs.

"Obviously, I'm not capable of doing what Kevin does on the basketball floor, and no one else on this team is. Or DeMarcus. So collectively, we've got to do that," Green said.

Red Sox snap Astros' 10-game win streak

AP
Boston Red Sox's Rafael Devers (11) tags out Houston Astros' Max Stassi in a rundown after a line-out by Alex Bregman during the seventh inning of a baseball game in Boston, Sunday, May 19, 2019.

BOSTON (AP)—Michael Chavis homered, Xander Bogaerts hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning and the Boston Red Sox averted a series sweep against Houston with a 4-3 victory Sunday that snapped the Astros' 10-game winning streak.

Mookie Betts scored three runs for Boston, which lost the first two games in its first meeting with the Astros since beating them in the 2018 AL Championship Series.

Carlos Correa hit a two-run homer off Chris Sale for Houston, which is 13-4 in May.

Astros outfielder George Springer, who began the day leading the American League with 17 homers, exited with lower back stiffness after striking out three times against Sale.

Bogaerts' double to deep left-center off Framber Valdez (1-2) scored Betts scored from first base.

Sale struck out 10 in 5 1/3 innings, giving up three runs and four hits with five walks. In his previous start, he became the first major league pitcher to strike out 17 batters in seven innings.

Marcus Walden (6-0) escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam and tossed 1 2/3 scoreless innings of relief. Brandon Workman got three outs for his first career save.

Yankees 13, Rays 5

In New York, Brett Gardner homered early, then got two hits during a seven-run burst in the sixth inning fueled by five walks that sent past Tampa Bay.

The Yankees took their second straight weekend series from the Rays and moved a half-game in front atop the AL East. Aaron Hicks homered for the first time since returning from a back injury and DJ LeMahieu also connected to help New York win for the 10th time in 13 games.

Kevin Kiermaier and Willy Adames homered on consecutive pitches in the second to give the Rays a 2-1 lead. Brandon Lowe hit a three-run homer in the third, his third of the series, to make it 5-3.

Phillies 7, Rockies 5

In Philadelphia, Bryce Harper homered for the second straight day and pinch-hitter J.T. Realmuto also went deep to help the Phillies complete a three-game sweep of Colorado.

Harper's tiebreaking, two-run shot in the sixth inning wasn't as prodigious as his 466-foot drive in Saturday's 2-1 victory, but this 404-footer had plenty of distance to clear the right-center wall for the NL East leaders.

The $330 million slugger also had a single and an RBI groundout.

Ryan McMahon hit two homers, and Charlie Blackmon and Trevor Story also went deep.

Marlins 3, Mets 0

In Miami, Sandy Alcantara threw a two-hitter in a pitching duel with Noah Syndergaard, and the Marlins beat the reeling New York Mets to finish a three-game sweep.

A day after being shut out on just one hit, the Mets lost their fifth in a row. The latest defeat against a team with baseball's worst record is sure to intensify speculation about the job security of manager Mickey Callaway.

Alcantara (2-4) struck out eight, walked one and needed only 89 pitches for the Marlins' first complete game shutout since Edinson Volquez tossed a no-hitter against Arizona in June 2017. The 23-year-old righty threw his first complete game in the majors.

Brewers 3, Braves 2, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Ben Gamel led off the 10th inning with a home run that lifted Milwaukee over the Braves.

All five runs in the game came on homers.

Gamel's drive off Wes Parsons (1-2) helped the Brewers end Atlanta's four-game winning streak. Christian Yelich and Keston Hiura also connected for Milwaukee, which avoided a three-game sweep in a matchup of 2018 NL division winners.

Dodgers 8, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Hyun-Jin Ryu threw seven shutout innings to extend his major league-leading streak to 31, and Cody Bellinger hit his 17th homer as Los Angeles defeated the Reds.

Ryu (6-1) had baserunners in each of his first five innings, but none of them got past second and he retired his last eight batters. The left-hander allowed five hits with one walk and five strikeouts, lowering his ERA to 1.52.

Alex Verdugo drove in three runs and Russell Martin added a solo homer for the Dodgers.

Indians, 10, Orioles 0

In Cleveland, Shane Bieber struck out a career-high 15 in his first major league complete game and the Indians routed Baltimore.

A day after being held to one hit, the Orioles were overmatched against Bieber (3-2).

The 23-year-old right-hander gave up five hits, didn't walk anyone and threw 107 pitches. He bounced back from allowing four home runs against the White Sox in his previous start.

Carlos Santana hit an RBI single in the first inning, then led off the third with his seventh home run.

Cleveland took three of four from the Orioles. Baltimore has lost nine of 11 and allowed a major league-high 94 home runs.

Athletics 5, Tigers 3, 7 innings

In Detroit, the Oakland Athletics led the Tigers at the bottom of the seventh inning when the game was suspended because of rain.

Oakland scored twice in the top of the seventh to take the lead, but the teams were unable to complete the inning before it began to rain hard and the tarp was brought onto the field. The game will resume Sept. 6 before the Tigers play a series in Oakland.

It was the finale of a four-game series that marked Oakland's only scheduled trip to Detroit this season.

Play was called after a delay of 1 hour, 41 minutes.

Stephen Piscotty hit a tiebreaking, two-run double in the seventh, putting Oakland in position for its 16th straight victory over the Tigers—but the A's will have to wait 3½ months before trying to close it out.

Blue Jays 5, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit another home run, Danny Jansen and Billy McKinney also connected and Toronto beat Chicago.

Guerrero has hit all four of his homers in the last six games. The highly touted 20-year-old didn't homer in his first 13 games after making his major league debut in late April.

Guerrero's two-run drive broke a 1-all tie in the eighth inning. Jansen added a two-run homer in the ninth.

José Abreu drove in two runs for the White Sox.

Rangers 5, Cardinals 4, 10 innings

In Arlington, Nomar Mazara hit a sacrifice fly off reliever Carlos Martinez to cap a two-run rally in the 10th inning that lifted Texas over St. Louis.

Both teams blew leads in the late innings.

Dexter Fowler's solo homer in the ninth off Rangers reliever Chris Martin made it 3-all. The Cardinals went ahead in the 10th when Harrison Bader doubled off Jeanmar Gomez (1-0) and scored on a sacrifice fly by Paul DeJong.

Rougned Odor opened the Texas 10th with a single off Jordan Hicks (1-2). Danny Santana walked and pinch-hitter Willie Calhoun had a tying single.

Royals 5, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Danny Duffy won his third straight start and Kansas City beat Los Angeles to stop a four-game skid.

Hunter Dozier hit a two-run double and Duffy (3-1) allowed five hits in six effective innings. The veteran left-hander from California had about 40 friends and family members in attendance. He struck out five and walked three.

Tyler Skaggs (4-4) permitted four runs—three earned—on 110 pitches in 5 2/3 innings.

Mariners 7, Twins 4

In Seattle, Edwin Encarnacion made several nice plays at first base early in the game, then hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning to help the Mariners snap Minnesota's five-game winning streak.

Mitch Haniger and Daniel Vogelbach hit back-to-back homers off Kyle Gibson (4-2) as the Mariners ended a three-game skid, one day after an 18-4 drubbing.

Yusei Kikuchi (3-1) gave up one earned run in six innings, striking out six.

Jorge Polanco had four hits for the Twins.

Giants 3, Diamondbacls 2, 10 innings

In Phoenix, Pablo Sandoval opened the 10th inning with a pinch-hit homer after shortstop Brandon Crawford made a game-saving stop in the ninth, sending San Francisco past Arizona.

The Diamondbacks appeared to have the game won when Adam Jones hit a grounder into the hole off Sam Dyson (2-0) with a runner on third with two outs in the ninth. Crawford made a spectacular play to save the Giants, diving to his right and hopping up to make a throw that beat Jones by a step.

Pirates 6, Padres 4

In San Diego, Colin Moran hit a three-run homer and finished with four RBIs, and Joe Musgrove beat his hometown Padres for the second time in two seasons as Pittsburgh won to take three of four from San Diego.

Musgrove (3-4) was the second straight alum of Grossmont High in suburban El Cajon to beat the Padres. Steven Brault won Saturday night in relief of opener Montana DuRapau.

Cubs 6, Nationals 5

In Washington, Anthony Rizzo homered, Albert Almora Jr. had three hits and Chicago held off the Nationals.

Chicago led 6-1 before Washington closed to within a run on a three-run homer by Anthony Rendon in the sixth inning and a solo home run by Howie Kendrick in the seventh.

Kyle Hendricks (4-4) retired the first 11 Washington batters and didn't allow a hit until Kurt Suzuki's single leading off the fifth, but finished by giving up four runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Mbappe hints at move away from PSG

PARIS (AP)—Kylian Mbappe has opened the door for a move away from Paris Saint-Germain.

Just after receiving the award for the French league's player of the season, the 20-year-old World Cup winner said he wants more responsibility, either at PSG or "elsewhere with a new project."

Mbappe, who joined from Monaco in 2017 for 180 million euros, had never speculated before on a possible transfer away from the French champions.

"I feel it may be the right time to take more responsibilities," Mbappe said after succeeding Neymar as the league's best player. "Hopefully it will be at Paris Saint-Germain, it would be with a great pleasure. Or maybe elsewhere, with a new project."

After winning the World Cup in Russia, Mbappe followed up with 32 league goals this season, becoming the first French player to reach at least that tally since 1966.

Mbappe has been linked with a possible move to Real Madrid, where Zinedine Zidane returned as coach earlier this season.

PSG sealed a sixth French league title in seven years but failed to defend its French Cup and French League Cup crowns this season. PSG was eliminated in the Champions League last 16 for the third straight year.

Mbappe was also named the young player of the season for the third straight year.

After leading Lille to a second-place finish, Christophe Galtier won the coach of the year award.

Messi hits 50-goal mark

In Barcelona, Lionel Messi scored twice to hit the 50-goal mark for the sixth time in his career on Sunday while Real Madrid put a fittingly poor ending to its worst season in recent memory after losing in the final round of the Spanish league.

Messi scored his 49th and 50th goals in all competitions this season to give Barcelona a 2-2 draw at Eibar and finished as the league's top scorer with 36 goals for the Spanish champions.

This is the sixth season Messi has finished as the top La Liga scorer, equaling a record held by Athletic Bilbao striker Telmo Zarra from the 1950s.

Barcelona, which had clinched the league title with three rounds to play, will now look to also retain the Copa del Rey title next weekend when it faces Valencia. Its chance of a rare treble of major titles was ended by Liverpool in the Champions League semifinals.

Barcelona won the league with 11 points more than second-place Atletico Madrid. It also finished 19 points ahead of Madrid, the biggest-ever points advantage by Barcelona over its fiercest rival.

"We were very consistent all season long and that's what allowed us to win the league by such a comfortable margin," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said.

Madrid endured the jeers of its own frustrated fans after a 2-0 loss to Real Betis at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Most of Madrid's supporters have long placed their hopes on what changes the club will make to an underperforming squad in the summer.

Not even coach Zinedine Zidane could find a saving grace to the campaign.

"It isn't that we don't want to (play better), we aren't able to," Zidane said. "The best thing is for this to be over. We are already thinking about the future and next season."

Madrid entered the match with nothing to play for, locked into a third-place finish for the second consecutive season for the first time since 1974.

AP

Dijon goalkeeper Runar Alex Runarsson, left, challenges for the ball with PSG's Kylian Mbappe during their League One soccer match at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, Saturday, May 18, 2019.

FALCONS

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pulled away, making one run after another. Besides Noah's Iguel' two-run double, Matt Tomokane also had a two-RBI double, and Andrew Iguel, Xavier Magofna, and Achilles Evangelista each registered an RBI single. Evangelista and Damien Cruz had two runs apiece at the top of the fourth.

Cruz went on to finish the job for the Falcons at the bottom of the fourth after relieving Magofna and the former started his shift by striking out Twins leadoff batter Jon Pinaula. The Twins were then called for the two quick outs, as Franklin Reyes was beaten to first on a 4-3 play, while Brandon Tesiro singled, but was stranded after Cruz fanned Devin Yumul.

Blue Jays 6, Marlins 5

In the lone Minors division game last weekend, the Blue Jays edged the defending champions Kagman Marlins.

Pitcher Nick Sablan scored the winning run at the bottom of the extra inning, as he reached off an error from the Marlins catcher. Earlier at the top of the first inning, Sablan struck out T.J. Dela Cruz to complete a 1-2-3 inning, as the Marlins' first two batters were both beaten to first.

With the close victory, the Blue Jays improved their record to 3-2, while the Marlins have yet to enter the win column after five matches. Idle NSA Braves lead the division with their undefeated 4-0 mark.

PERFECT

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team on the board in the 42nd minute. The young striker then made it back-to-back, as he scored four minutes later, while the Old B Bank could not cash in on its multiple attacks to fall behind at the break.

When the game resumed, Tenorio picked up where Poon left off and this time the goal came early, as the team captain got his first goal right into the fourth minute of the second half.

A marked man after topping the league in goals scored (14) in the regular season, Tenorio was unstoppable and notched another goal six minutes later to widen the gap, while the Old B Bank still could not end its dry spell. The NMI U18 forward also had the last say in the lopsided win after getting his third goal in the 55th minute.

With the game and the title in the bag, the Teen Ayuyus wisely used the clock after Tenorio's goal and allowed its bench players to finish off the Old B Bank, which repeatedly tried to make it to the board, but just could not get past NMI U18 defenders.

The Teen Ayuyus were handed the championship trophy after the shutout win, while the Old B Bank also received a trophy. Joining the NMI U18 and the Old B Bank in the Top 3 was TanHoldings Football Club, which eased past Paire Football Club, 7-2, in the consolation game last May 9.

The Old B Bank and NMI U18 dueled for the Division A championship last weekend after downing their separate semis opponents last May 5. The Teen Ayuyus edged the No. 4 TanHoldings FC, 4-2, while the Old B Bank stunned No. 2 Paire, 4-1.

The NMI U18 was seeded first in the playoffs after earning a perfect 6-0-0 win-draw-loss record, while Paire was ranked second with its 5-0-1 card. The Old B Bank and TanHoldings finished the round-robin regular season with identical 3-0-3 marks, but the former won the tiebreak for No. 3 seed, winning their head-to-head (4-1).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players and coaches of the NMI Boys U18 National Team pose with their championship trophy after beating the Old B Bank, 5-0, in the Division A title game in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

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6-2, to face No. 2 Nan Hsun Lin of Chinese-Taipei in the second round. Shuhei also swept China's Chibin Yan, 6-3, 6-3 to set up a Round 2 game against No. 9 Jewon Jeon of South Korea, while Jeong will challenge No. 8 Hiroki Fujita of Japan after topping Jay Jones of the U.S., 6-4, 6-4.

Kwok dominated the CNMI's Seongjeon Heo, 6-0, 6-0, for a second round meeting with No. 4 Jun Lee, while Kurihara's 6-0, 6-2 triumph over the CNMI's Seung Hyun Kim earned the visitor a duel with another Commonwealth bet—No. 7 seed Robbie Schorr.

Adachi, who ousted China's Hongyi Zheng, 6-2, 6-4, will also be paired against a seeded foe—No. 5 Dong Gyu Oh of South Korea—in Round 2. Park, a 6-0, 6-0 winner over the CNMI's Jun Wang, will take on No. 3 seed Matthew Garcia of the Philippines, while Kyohei Ohtani will square off against Johnstrone, who defeated Japan's Maski Kanehera, 6-3, 6-3. Herbert, the lone Brazilian in the field, prevailed over Japan's Yuki Nagata, 6-0, 6-1, and will have the toughest second round opponent in No. 1 Yunseok Jang of South Korea.

Meanwhile, all four CNMI bets in the girls singles were booted out.

Hyejin Elliot was beaten by South Korea's Seoyoung Kim, 6-0, 6-1, and Japanese Hiromi Sekiguchi and Natsumi Numano blanked Tania Tan and Malika Miyawaki, respectively, while China's Haoyan Wu eliminated Maria Gregoire, 6-1, 6-0.

Majority of the opening matches in the girls U18 singles were decided in two sets, while only Hannah Kaile Shen of Hong Kong and South Korea's Gio Jang played extended games before making it to the next round.

Jang pulled off an upset over No. 6 Li Hsin-Lin of Chinese-Taipei, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, while Shen also ousted a Chinese-Taipei player in Jyun Yi Lee, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2.

The singles matches both in the girls and boys divisions will continue today, while the doubles competition will begin this morning.

Miyawaki will team up with Tan and they will collide against Lee and Lin, while Gregoire is joining forces with Chinese-Taipei's Caini Wang and they will battle Japan's Riko Kamikura and Sekiguchi. Ryu has Australian Louie Zhang as partner and they will face Herbert and Kwok, while the CNMI pair of Ken Song and Jimin Woo will meet Dongyeon Kang and Wang.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Sam Ryu makes a backhand return to Japan's Yusen Sato during a first round game in the boys singles event in the 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Nadal beats Djokovic for record 9th title

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Perfect season for NMI U18

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The NMI Boys U18 National Team's Sunjoon Tenorio, left, dribbles in front of an Old B Bank defender during their title game in Division A of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NMI Boys U18 National Team capped its undefeated run in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League with a 5-0 victory against the Old B Bank in the Division A finals last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Sunjoon Tenorio and Skyler Poon teamed up in handing the No. 1 seed Teen Ayuyus the easy title win against No. 3 the Old B Bank. Tenorio drilled a hat trick, while Poon contributed two goals.

Though the Old B Bank gave up five goals in the finale, it took a while for the NMI U18 to find its target. In fact, the eventual champion's first goal came late in the opening half with Poon finally putting his

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Japan's Yusen Sato returns to the CNMI's Sam Ryu during a first round game in the boys singles event in the 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

9 make grade in first round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Nine players advanced to the second round of the 2019 Northern Marianas Junior Championships after winning their opening games in the boys singles event yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Eight first round winners swept their way to Round 2, while Japanese Kyohei Ohtani needed three sets to survive his opener against South Korea's Jongbeom Chun, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2. Next up for Ohtani is No. 6 seed and Chinese Taipei's Hong-Lin Fu, who got a bye at the top half of the 64-player draw.

Joining Ohtani and Fu to the next round were Brazil's Nicolas Mark Herbert, Singapore's Matthew Johnstone, South Korea's Seungik Park and Yeong June Jeong, Hong Kong's Max Kwok, and Japan's Hayato Kurihara, Taki Adachi, Shudei Ohtani, and Yusen Sato.

Sato eliminated the CNMI's Sam Ryu, 7-6 (5),

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Falcons pitcher prepares to throw from the mound during their first round game against the Twins in the Majors division of the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Falcons rip Twins for sixth victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons buckled down to work in the last two innings to rout the Twins, 15-2, in the Majors division game in the 2019 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

The Falcons combined for 14 runs in the third and fourth inning, going all out in the last as they scored 10 to claim the early win via 10-run mercy rule. The Falcons got their sixth victory in nine games, while the Twins are still winless in eight matches.

Before their strong finish, the Falcons were behind, 1-2, after giving up two runs at the bottom of the first inning.

Miah Yokuta had an RBI double and also reached off a Falcons error for the Twins' pair of runs at the bottom of the opening inning. Earlier, at the top, Noah Iguel blasted an RBI double to put the Falcons on the board.

Iguel went on to record four more RBIs and hit 3-for-4 at bat, as he led the Falcons' surge in the last two innings. The first baseman had back-to-back two-RBI singles in the third and fourth inning, batted twice in the last, and scored two runs.

Delton Lieto, on the other hand, logged a two-RBI double in the third, as he and Iguel handed the Falcons the lead after three complete innings, 5-2.

Then at the top of the fourth and last inning, the Falcons

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